

Muasher: Reforms will continue

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government is eager now to pursue economic programme of action that it started earlier this year and that it was determined not to go back on its decision to lift bread and fodder subsidy, Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Tuesday. He said the government will instead explain in detail its economic programme of action, on the basis of which it had won Parliament confidence in February, to the people. "We have a long-term programme that we'll adhere to and that we'll explain to the people," a relaxed Dr. Muasher said. "There will be real steps to revive the economy."



Tourism industry not affected by riots

AMMAN (J.T.) — The recent disturbances in southern Jordan have not affected the flow of tourists to Jordan, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said Tuesday. A spokesman for the ministry noted that the areas where the disturbances occurred were sites normally frequented by a small number of tourists. "Tourism facilities and services were not affected," and tourists continue to receive all facilities, the spokesman said. "No tourist was affected by the disturbances," the spokesman added. "What happened was a passing event, which should not have any negative bearing on the future of the tourism sector in Jordan." According to the spokesman, travel agents and hotels in Jordan reported inquiries from abroad about the situation but "no cancellations were made."

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King, visiting Ramtha, urges citizens to remain united and steadfast

'We should push forward on path of dialogue, democracy and respect for human rights and reject chaos'

RAMTHA (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday called on Jordanians to remain united and avoid actions that could lead to chaos and also pledged to continue to do everything in his power to help the people.

Addressing a rally in this northern town, the King, who was accompanied by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and other officials, also said that "we should push forward on the path of dialogue, democracy and respect for human rights and reject chaos."

In a brief speech warmly received by a crowd of several thousand people, the King urged citizens to remain united and steadfast in building the country and confronting difficulties facing it.

"We stand together on firm ground depending on ourselves and working together to build our country armed with awareness, resolve and determination to face the challenges under all circumstances in order to serve the future genera-

tions," the King told the cheering crowd.

"I have worked with you for the past 44 years and I would like to say that what remains of my life I will dedicate towards further endeavours and further construction to benefit the coming generations so they may have a decent living and prosperous life," he added.

"I depend on your unity and your cohesion and determination to march forward along the path of reform and hard work to be carried out in an atmosphere characterised with Shura, dialogue and true democracy, respect of human rights and respect of law and order as we stand in the face of anarchy and harmful actions which can only end in loss," said the King.

"There can be no going back from progress and there can be no shirking of duty in protecting the achievements of this country whose people stand united and steadfast in the face of all challenges," he said.

The King reiterated that Jordan was determined to be true to the principles and objectives of the Great Arab Revolt.

Several local notables, including Parliament members from the northern districts, addressed the rally welcoming King Hussein, reaffirming allegiance to the Hashemite Throne and expressing support for the country's economic reform programme.

Ramtha streets and main squares were bedecked with flags and the King's portraits. Local citizens performed dabkeh dances and lined the streets cheering the King.

Accompanying the King on the visit were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Faisal, Prince Ali, Prince Hamzeh and Prince Hashem, Prime Minister Kabariti, the King's Military Secretary His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh.



His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday waves to cheering crowds as he attends a rally in Ramtha (photo by Yousef Allan)

Curfew on Karak town is relaxed

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Authorities on Tuesday relaxed the curfew which was imposed on the southern city of Karak Saturday after it was rocked by two days of riots against the increase in the price of bread, residents said.

Karak Mayor Ahmad Mahadin said it was obvious the curfew was being eased in what he described as a move aimed at gradually lifting it.

Residents said the situation in the town, where the riots erupted after noon prayer on Friday, "was calm" and that there were no shortages of food or medicine in Karak or its surrounding villages. He said the curfew was being enforced partially and that merchants were being allowed to open their shops for citizens to buy what they need. Bakeries, he said, were also open and they have enough supplies to meet the residents' demand for bread.

Dr. Mahadin and other residents of Karak said that the army was still maintaining a heavy presence on street corners of the town, from which riots spread to other neighbouring towns and villages.

Residents said that security forces were still arresting people suspected of either inciting the riots or taking part in them. Official figures put the number of detainees at 150, with 104 from Karak where pan-Arab

In telephone calls they made to Al Ra'i Arabic daily, the mayors said there were shortages of food commodities and medicines because major suppliers of these commodities in Karak's towncentre were suffering from the curfew. They demanded that the curfew be lifted immediately.

But Karak Governor Badreddine Al Wadian was quoted by the same newspaper as saying that there were no shortages of food or medicine in Karak or its surrounding villages. He said the curfew was being enforced partially and that merchants were being allowed to open their shops for citizens to buy what they need. Bakeries, he said, were also open and they have enough supplies to meet the residents' demand for bread.

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Democratic framework will govern re-evaluation process, government says

Politicians agree on need for opening objective and balanced dialogue

By Nermeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

THE GOVERNMENT confirmed yesterday that a re-evaluation process of the whole political experience since 1989 will begin in earnest, once normal life is restored to the country, and pledged that this will be done in a democratic atmosphere and according to democratic rules and norms.

The government also announced that it intends to start as soon as possible a new dialogue with Parliament, as represented by parliamentary blocs, in order to put relations, which were strained by the tussle over the issue of lifting subsidies on wheat and fodder prices, back on track.

Senior officials said that the latter effort is already underway including with those who opposed the decision to raise the price of bread and animal feed. They cited as evidence the meetings that are planned between His Majesty King Hussein with parliamentarians and those that prime minister has had over the past three days with

Karak deputy Nazih Ammarin and other members of Parliament who represent the south in both the Upper and Lower Houses.

"Parliamentary opposition is legitimate and constitutional and we want to resume the dialogue with members of Parliament and parliamentary blocs," Minister of Information Marwan Muasher said yesterday, pointing out that such dialogue will necessarily be with the legitimate and licensed political bodies only. There will be no dialogue with "the kind of destructive opposition that we witnessed on the streets Friday and Saturday," Dr. Muasher asserted echoing what His Majesty King Hussein stated in a recent TV interview when he stressed the political bankruptcy of that opposition.

"We want to open the door for discussion and dialogue," the King told the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) television station in the interview that was aired Monday, "but first we

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Trade relations with Iraq are unlikely to suffer, officials say

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Senior officials yesterday dismissed contentions that trade and other ties between Jordan and Iraq would suffer as a result of involvement by pro-Iraqi Baathist elements in instigating the riots in the south.

Contentions that efforts to boost trade ties with Iraq, following the adoption of the U.N.-sponsored oil-for-food formula under Security Council Resolution 986, will be undermined are untrue, two cabinet ministers told the Jordan Times.

The two ministers said they believe that trade links with Iraq should not be affected "seriously" as the accusations of pro-Iraq Baathist involvement in the riots were not directly levelled at the Iraqi regime as such, but rather at Jorda-

nians ideologically and organisationally linked to the Baath Party, the power-base of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"We have not accused the Iraqi government of fomenting the riots," said Trade and Industry Minister Ali Abul Ragheb. While "it is true that we did accuse leftist parties with pro-Iraqi ideological affiliations of instigating the unrest. But that should not have a negative impact on trade links between our two countries."

In agreement, Transport Minister Nasser Lawzi said that "Jordan separates the two issues in that the government is 'accusing members of the Iraqi Baath here and not necessarily them (Iraqis) directly ... we are accusing those members of a licensed political party in Jordan regardless of how closely connected it is to

the mother party in Iraq."

The ministers' contention that the "two issues are separate and should not be linked," however, has received little support from Iraq watchers in Jordan who believe that the oil-for-food deal does not restrict Iraq's choices of trade partners.

"It is true that the trade embargo imposed against Iraq by the U.N. in 1990 had practically ruled out other options for Baghdad than to use Jordan as an outlet," said an expert on Iraq-Jordan relations. "But the recent oil-for-food deal has created a new reality, whereby Baghdad is almost free to choose its trade partners," he said, adding that rising tension in Jordanian-Iraqi ties (since the defection last August of Hussein Kamel to the Kingdom

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King today meets senators and deputies from south

Kabariti exchanges views with southern parliamentarians on recent events, reaffirms no one will face injustice

By Ramadan Al Rawashdeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein today meets with members of the Upper and Lower House of Parliament from southern Jordan including those of Karak, Maan and Tafleh — areas which witnessed rioting in the past few days over the government's plans on subsidies. Deputy Ahmad Kasasbeh from Karak said yesterday.

"On Thursday the King will meet all members of Parliament at the Royal Court," said Mr. Kasasbeh.

Mr. Kasasbeh made the announcement Tuesday following a meeting between deputies of the southern districts and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti in the presence of Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh to review the situation in the south.

According to Mr. Kasasbeh, deputies attending the meeting were Samir Habashneh, Hamad Al Maayta, Salem Zawaideh, Mashour Abu Tayeh, Jamil Heshoush, Tawfiq Kreishan, Taha Al Hababeh and Rateb Saoud. Mr. Kasasbeh is also a deputy from Maan.

"These deputies held a meeting among themselves before meeting with the prime minister and declared their outright condemnation of the acts of sabotage and destruction which the rioters had caused to public and private institutions," Mr. Kasasbeh said.

The deputies also discussed the situation prevailing in the south, according

to Mr. Kasasbeh, who said the deputies urged Mr. Kabariti to handle "the events and their consequences with wisdom and understanding" and ensure that "no one of those detained suffer injustice." "The prime minister promised to be very careful, adding that no one would be done any injustice but only those involved in acts of sabotage will be referred to court, Mr. Kasasbeh said.

"The deputies emphasised to Mr. Kabariti that the citizens of the southern regions of Jordan owe allegiance to the King and the nation," according to the deputy.

Mr. Kasasbeh quoted the prime minister as saying: "We wanted to defuse tension and to thwart the plots concocted by the nation's enemies and those who have allegiance to other countries."

Another deputy, Samir Habashneh, demanded that the government investigate the situation and find out the real causes for the riots. "There must be social and economic reasons behind the recent events," he said.

He said the government must identify the elements behind the riots and the sabotage against police and private property.

"Some circles could have tried to stir trouble for the government in a manifestation of their protests against the Jordan-Israel peace treaty," said Mr. Habashneh.

4 tabloid journalists held over 'inaccurate, misleading' reports

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Four journalists from the Al Bilad weekly, including its publisher and chief editor, have been detained on charge of violating the Press and Publications Law by carrying "inaccurate and misleading reports," informed sources said Tuesday.

Separately, Information Minister Marwan Muasher confirmed that another journalist, Fuad Hussein, of the Al Aswaq daily, was also arrested on charges of direct involvement in activities related to the two days of riots in southern Jordan.

The four arrested from Al Bilad weekly were identified as publisher Nayef Tawara, chief editor Khalid Khasasbeh and reporters Taha Abu Reden and Rakan Saideh.

The sources said the four were held because of "inaccurate and misleading" stories that Al Bilad carried in its coverage of the recent disturbances in southern towns.

According to the sources, Al Bilad reported that Karak Deputy Nazih Ammarin was arrested in connection with the riots and that an infant had died after inhaling tear-gas fired by police to disperse the rioters in Karak.

Al Bilad headlined the two reports on its first page and carried the stories inside. The four were arrested on Tuesday.

Mr. Hussein of Al Aswaq, who is a member of the executive council of the Jordan Press Association,

was arrested in the early hours of Monday.

Dr. Muasher told reporters Tuesday that Mr. Hussein "was not arrested because he was a member of the JPA council but because he was directly involved in the riots."

The minister was answering a question whether the arrest of the Al Aswaq journalist came because the JPA's name had appeared in a list of 11 professional associations, which, along with 11 political parties, purportedly called for the resignation of the government following the riots.

The 11 professional associations said subsequently that they were not consulted or informed of the issuance of such a demand and distanced themselves from the purported joint statement.

JPA President Seif Al Sherif also issued a separate statement saying the association was not a signatory to the demand for the government's resignation.

JPA sources said the association, the umbrella group of Jordanian journalists, was trying to do what it could to help the arrested journalists. They said two of the Al Bilad journalists, Mr. Abu Reden and Mr. Saideh were not members of the association.

It was the first reported arrests of journalists in connection with coverage of the riots, which are expected to be the dominating theme for many Jordanian weekly tabloids that usually appear at the end of the

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Algeria's main rebel movements condemn reported massacre

CAIRO (AP) — Two of Algeria's main Islamic groups Tuesday condemned a reported weekend massacre of 63 people and accused the Algerian government of involvement. The government, however, has denied any such attack took place.

The respected Arabic daily Al Hayat, which on Monday reported the massacre, quoted unidentified sources in its Tuesday edition confirming that the attack on two buses in southeastern Algeria did indeed take place Saturday.

The London-based paper also quoted Anwar Hadam, an official of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the main political wing of militants in Algeria, as saying the group strongly condemned "such criminal operations."

"We do not rule out that these operations are carried out by groups within the regime who are enemies of the Algerian people," said Hadam. "This attack, if it proves anything, proves the need to quickly find a political solution for the crisis."

Mr. Hadam's group, known as the FIS from the initials of its name in French, was the leading

Muslim fundamentalist party poised to win Algerian legislative elections in early 1992 before the army intervened. The army intervention was the start of last four years of violence in Algeria in which 50,000 people have died.

The Algerian Brotherhood, another leading Muslim fundamentalist group with close ties to the FIS, also condemned the bus attack.

Musa Karwash, a spokesman for the group in France, accused Franco-Berber militants supported by the government's intelligence unit of being involved in the attack.

"Probably the reason is settling old debts, punishing the Muslim youth of Bama... The regime trying to draw attention from the failure of their ridiculous preparations for a national conference," Mr. Karwash was quoted as saying by Al Hayat.

"We neither accept nor support such a terrible attack on civilians uninvolved with the regime. And we condemn strongly the campaign in the French press which without reservation accused Muslims of the attack," Mr. Karwash said.

More attacks in S. Arabia are inevitable — opposition

NICOSIA (AFP) — Exiled Saudi opposition leaders said Tuesday they were convinced there would be more anti-American attacks in Saudi Arabia, with one saying Saudi officials may also be hit.

Saad Al Faqih, head of the London-based Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia (MIRA), and Mohammad Al Massari, the head of the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), both said more attacks were "inevitable."

Mr. Faqih added: "These attacks could hit American targets but also Saudi officials."

Saudi Arabia has many armed and well-organized young people who denounce their government as "illegitimate" and who are determined to expel U.S. troops from the kingdom which houses the holiest shrines in Islam, Mr. Faqih said.

Both opposition leaders, who were reached at their headquarters in London, also insisted Tuesday that Saudi Arabia, despite its denials, has arrested militants in connection with a June bombing that killed 19 U.S. airmen.

"Six Saudi Muslim extremists, who are veterans of the war in Afghanistan, have confessed to the attack," said Mr. Faqih, whose group last Wednesday said a number of Afghan veterans had confessed to the bombing in the eastern city of Khobar.

"The six men are imprisoned in Jubail prison" on the eastern Gulf coast, Mr. Faqih told AFP.

"The Saudi authorities have not allowed the Americans to question the prisoners."

Mr. Massari told AFP that "four people — two Kuwaitis and two Lebanese — were arrested nearly a month ago in Kuwait and handed over to the Saudi authorities."

He said "the four men confessed to the attack in Khobar," in which 19 U.S. airmen died when a truck bomb exploded outside their military dormitory at King Abdul Aziz Air Base on June 25.

A spokesman for the Saudi embassy in Washington said Friday that people have been questioned in connection with the bombing, although no arrests have been made.



CONCERT: The orchestra of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the New England Orchestra on Tuesday perform Beethoven classics at the Roman Amphitheatre in downtown Amman. The event was held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, with Princess Wijdan deputising for the Queen. Francesco de Arago conducted the performance, proceeds of which went to welfare projects (Petra photo)

Jihad bombed embassy in Islamabad — Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt's security services are now convinced the armed fundamentalist group Jihad was responsible for the November 1995 bombing of the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad, sources close to the investigation said on Tuesday.

Investigators reached this conclusion after the recent arrest in Cairo and the northern Delta region of 41 members of the militant group who made "full confessions," one source said.

The suspects gave police "the names of those behind the bombing, which they said was planned and financed by Jihad leaders based in Europe, namely Ayman Al Zawahiri," the source said.

Zawahiri is believed to be the main leader of the group and according to the Egyptian press lives in Switzerland, though Bern has denied the reports.

"A complete file containing their confessions was submitted to the Pakistani general prosecutor during a visit he made to Egypt two weeks ago," the source added.

At the time Egypt's government press reported the visit but failed to give any details while the prosecutor was quoted as saying results of the investigation would be announced soon.

The attack on November 19, 1995, which killed 17 people, was claimed by three Egyptian fundamentalist groups: The Jihad, the Gama Islamiyah and the hitherto unknown Group for International Justice.

The suspects who were recently arrested belong to a Jihad cell comprising 70 militants, 30 of whom are on the run. "Some of them came from abroad, namely Britain where Jihad leaders live,"

a police source said.

The Jihad was set up in the 1970s and made headlines when it claimed responsibility for the 1981 assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. It also claimed a failed attempt to kill former Prime Minister Atef Sedki in 1993.

The government daily Al Akhbar on Tuesday accused London of sponsoring terrorism following reports that an international Islamic conference would be held next month in the British capital.

Al Akhbar, referring to a report by the Sunday Times in London, charged that the conference will bring together "the heads of terrorist groups in the Arab and Muslim world," including Saudi businessman Osama Bin Laden who is alleged to finance various fundamentalist groups.

"The convening of this conference in London confirms that Western countries which have begun to suffer from terrorism are at the same time trying to protect and sponsor those behind this destructive phenomenon," Al Akhbar said in an editorial.

The conference entitled rally for revival will be the third of its kind to take place since 1994. It will be held on Sept. 8 at the London arena, the Sunday Times said.

Speakers this year will include Saudi opposition figure Mohammad Al Massari as well as Mawlana Zaahid-ur-Rashidi of Pakistan who heads the World Islamic Forum, organisers told the newspaper.

Videoed messages from leading militant leaders will also be broadcast at the conference.

Taleban arrest 6 men over Russian escape

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's opposition Taleban militia has arrested six men while investigating the escape of seven Russian airmen held hostage for more than a year, a Pakistan-based Afghan news service said on Tuesday.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said the Taleban leadership had arrested three guards and three airport officials to investigate how the Russians were able to trick their captors.

The Russians escaped to the United Arab Emirates on Friday in their own plane along with three guards. The airmen, held in Kandahar in southern Afghanistan, had been allowed by Taleban leaders to visit their Ilyushin-76 cargo plane for maintenance.

UAE authorities were expected to hand over the three guards to the International Red Crescent on Tuesday.

AIP said the chief of Taleban militia, Mohammed Umar, spent Saturday at the airport to examine the possibility that the Russians' escape was a conspiracy.

A Taleban spokesman had said Taleban fighters had tried to block the runway with a jeep and then sent up a MiG fighter and helicopter in vain pursuit of the lumbering cargo plane.

The Russian returned home to a hero's welcome in Tashkent on Monday after travelling through Moscow to the UAE.

The airmen, working for the Tashkent-based Aero-sun Company, were taken prisoner after a Taleban MiG-19 fighter forced their plane to land in August 1995.

The Taleban, which controls about half of Afghanistan, said the plane's cargo of ammunition from Albania was evidence of Russian

military support for President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government. Moscow said the crew's nationality was coincidental.

The Russian pilots told a news conference in Moscow on Sunday that they tricked their guards into letting them board the plane, start the engine and take off.

The Kandahar probe is being supervised by a commission set up by the Taleban leadership after the incident which was termed by faction's representatives a severe setback. The sources said the six had been held for interrogation by Taleban investigators.

They did not identify them, but said they included three militia-men who were on duty on Friday to guard the plane along with three others who were taken by the escapes with them.

The three guards had moved away from the plane in the scorching heat to rest in shade leaving three others behind, the sources said, adding that the reason for detaining the rest was not known.

The Taleban leader Umar has been personally overseeing the ongoing investigation in Kandahar, the sources said.

A Taleban official in Pakistan, Mulla Malang, said on Sunday the "ill-organised" militia took the well-trained Russian airmen "lightly."

He said the pilot invited the three guards, two of whom were armed with Kalashnikov rifles, to escort the crew into the plane for a technical check up and that soon after starting the engines the airmen disarmed the guards.

The plane could not be intercepted and the anti-aircraft battery at Kandahar did not go into action because of the Taleban's presence on the aircraft, he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel kidnapped 4 Lebanese — report

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel kidnapped four Lebanese who handed over to Syria a Mossad intelligence agent involved in the assassination of a leading Palestinian militant, Yehudit Alarant newspaper reported Tuesday. The Mossad agent, a Palestinian recruited four years ago while studying in Bulgaria, was a source of information which led to the murder in Malta last October of Islamic Jihad chief Fathi Shaqaqi, it said. The killing is believed to have been the work of an Israeli hit squad. The four Lebanese were abducted on Feb. 22, at the orders of Israel's previous Labour government, after an investigation by the secret services and are still being held at an undisclosed location in Israel. The supreme court turned down an appeal for their release two months ago for security reasons, the paper said, without specifying where the initial arrests took place. Another Mossad agent was arrested in Syria just before the anti-terrorist summit held in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm Al Sheikh in March 1996, the Yehudit said. Among the most prominent Lebanese abducted by Israel are Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, leader of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah who was seized in July 1989, and another Muslim fundamentalist chief, Mustafa Dirani, in May 1994. Both are still being held in Israel.

Labour protests Netanyahu apartment

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Opposition Labour deputies were up in arms on Tuesday over the expense of the luxury apartment rented for Israel's right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his family. The parliamentary finance committee said the family would be housed in a Jerusalem apartment at a cost of \$4,000 a month, until renovation work is completed at the official residence of the prime minister. Another apartment has been rented for Mr. Netanyahu's bodyguards for another \$800 a month. "These lavish spendings are unacceptable at a time when budget cuts planned by the government are hitting the poorest sectors of society," protested Labour Deputy Ofir Pines. Newspapers have been full of reports on the extravagant tastes of the prime minister's wife, Sarah Netanyahu. She was reportedly planning to stay in a luxury hotel in Oslo for \$1,000 a night, at the government's expense.

Police kill two in raid on Istanbul house

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish police killed two people on Tuesday in an attack on a suspected guerrilla safe house in Istanbul, the state-run Anatolian news agency said. The two died in an exchange of gunfire with the police in the western Istanbul district of Eyup, the agency reported. It did not identify the dead. Police in the past have raided houses where they believe Kurdish separatist rebels or leftist guerrillas are sheltered.

Kuwait pledges to aid Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — Kuwaiti Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah on Monday wrapped up a two-day visit here by promising the emirate would take a greater role in the reconstruction of Lebanon, officials said. The sources said the crown prince told Lebanese officials that Kuwait will join the consultative group due to be set up under the terms of the April truce which ended Israel's 17-day offensive against Hizbollah in South Lebanon.

Greece dismisses Turkish claims

ATHENS (AFP) — Greece on Tuesday rejected Turkey's plans to claim compensation for damage to two of its consulates caused during angry protests at the killing of two Greek Cypriots on Cyprus. "They cannot be serious, especially in the light of recent events during which the Turkish side was responsible for the deaths of young men and its provocative policies show that it is to blame for the troubles in the region," said government spokesman Dimitris Reppas. Late Friday 600 protesters in the northeastern town of Komotini and 1,000 others on the island of Rhodes threw stones and broke windows at the Turkish consulates. They were protesting the 22-year Turkish occupation of the northern third of Cyprus and the killings of Greek Cypriots in troubles last week. Turkey has sharply protested the incidents and demanded measures to protect its diplomatic staff, while foreign ministry official Inal Bana said Ankara "reserved the right to claim damages and interest." But Mr. Reppas dismissed the idea saying the Turkish government should "prove itself to be more serious and look for stronger arguments to present the case for its policies. The last thing we expect to hear from a serious government is a claim for financial compensation for a bit of damage to its missions." Meanwhile, six young people aged between 15 and 23 were Tuesday charged with "aggression and damage to foreign property" following the incidents in Komotini.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 Iris — The Happy Professor
15:20 Flintstones
15:25 The New Three Stooges
15:30 The Adventures
16:00 Kelly
16:30 Doc. — The Earth Revealed
17:00 Doc. — La France Aux 1000 Villages
17:30 Varieties — L'Invite De Marque
18:00 Doc. — Roule Routier
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Sport Et Musique
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Evening Shade
20:00 Super Stars of Action
20:30 Chancer
21:10 Hunter
22:00 News in English
22:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
23:10 Bugs

PRAYER TIMES

04:36 Fajr
05:59 (Sunrise) Duha
12:39 Dhuhr
16:17 'Asr
19:17 Maghreb
20:42 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweidieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Ibrahima Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 632826
Armenian Catholic Church

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International al Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutherian Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614 190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures below average by 3-4 degrees centigrade and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 18/28

Aqaba 22/35

Deserts 17/31

Jordan Valley 23/35

Yesterday's high temp peratures: Amman 28, Aqaba 36 Humidity readings: Amman 56 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Yousef Rashid 896301

Dr. Khalil Abdo 732920

Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485

Dr. Jum'ah Abu Dhiab 758848

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 890280

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Naboukh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID: Dr. Mazin Abu Bakir 276852

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA: Dr. Walid Halaseh 982799

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints

..... 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints

..... 787111

Telephone Information (Directory assistance)

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs

..... 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Mohajreen (52700) or 08(53250).

777101/3

Al-Bashir, 775111/26

Army, Marka

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal, Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery, 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)372275

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

Flights

08:00 Damascus (RJ)

09:00 Jeddah (RJ)

09:55 Larnaca (RJ)

10:10 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

15:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

17:45 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)

18:00 Paris (RJ)

18:15 Istanbul (RJ)

18:50 Madrid (RJ)

19:00 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)

19:10 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

19:15 Rome (RJ)

21:55 Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)

Home News

EU grants JD 1m to local farmers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) Tuesday received a JD 1 million loan from the Employment and Development Fund (EDF) to be loaned to local farmers to facilitate agrarian projects aimed at increasing income for those in the agricultural sector.

Under the terms of the agreement, the ACC will give soft loans to those wishing to initiate livestock, cattle, sheep, or bee breeding projects in order to cultivate crops, honey or, to repair agricultural equipment for existing projects.

Ali Jaddou director general for the EDF signed the agreement with ACC Director General Mohammad Arabiyat and main-

tained that the agreement was the third of its kind between the two agencies and conforms to the EDF's 1996 strategy to provide help to unemployed and low-income groups through soft and long-term loans.

The EDF is a government supported agency which also grants soft loans to the unemployed who aspire to start a business.

He said that the EDF has loaned farmers JD2.25 million through the ACC which financed 47 agricultural projects which have reportedly created 750 jobs in the past two years.

According to the Mr. Jaddou, the loan forms part of a grant received from the European Community

designed to finance socio-economic projects in the Kingdom.

ACC Director Arabiyat said that the loans will be given to small-scale farmers particularly those certified from universities and colleges in the field of agriculture and who demonstrate themselves capable of implementation of such projects.

He said that persons heretofore unqualified will qualify for loans only after they have enrolled in training courses to guide them in the successful execution of their labour.

Training is provided at no cost by the ACC in conjunction with the EDF.

1969 Al Aqsa blaze remembered today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan today observes the 27th anniversary of the conflagration of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

The blaze was set by a Jewish arsonist who Israeli authorities claimed to be a mentally deranged settler living in Jerusalem.

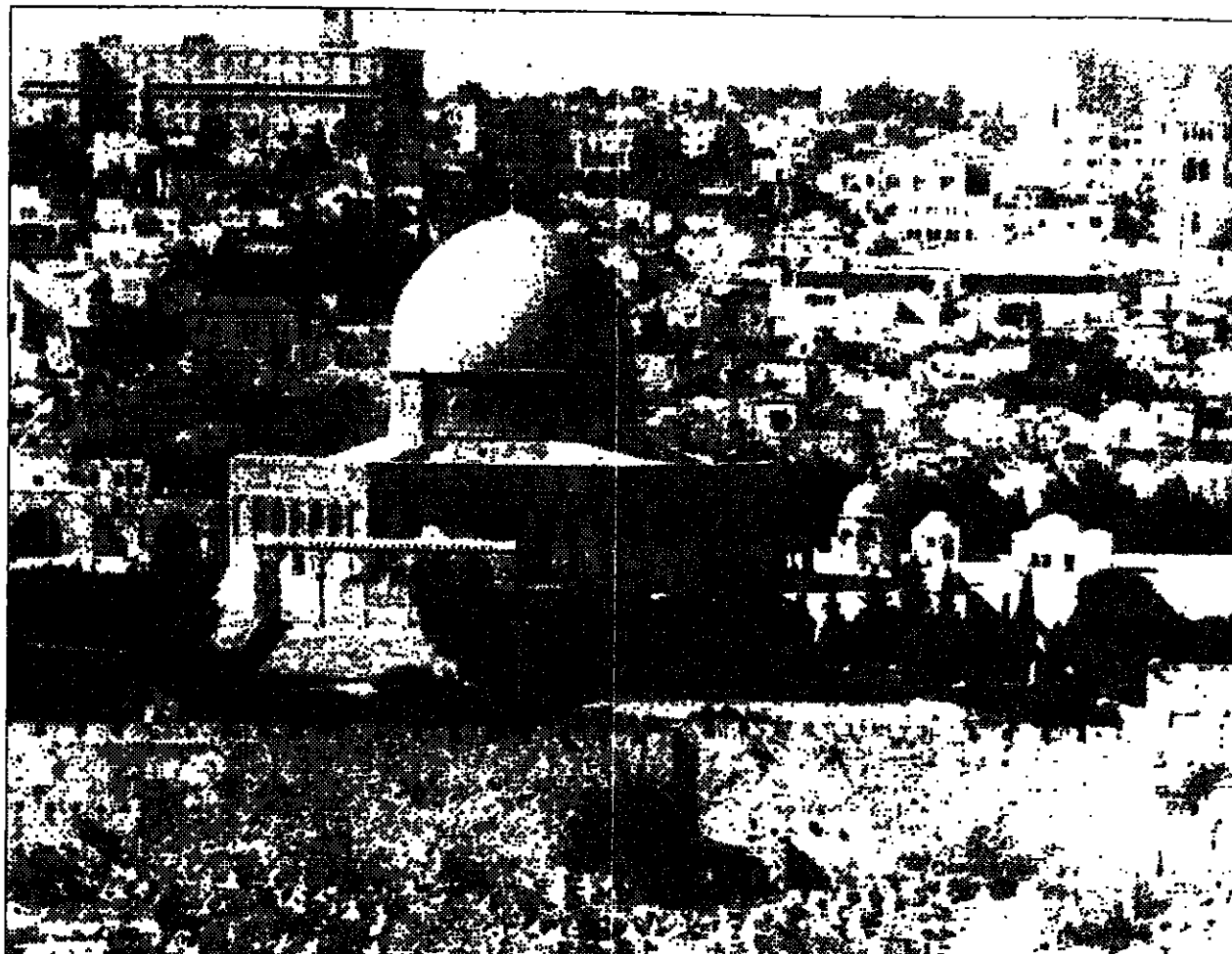
The fire raged for five hours, scorching different parts of the holy shrine and completely incinerating the priceless chandeliers, the carpets and the minbar (pulpit), as well as provoking the collapse of a section of the wooden and ornamented ceiling.

On the eve of the anniversary, the Jerusalem Societies in Jordan convened a special meeting during which several prominent Jordanian and Palestinian personalities delivered speeches, according to a statement released.

The statement which was signed by Muslim as well as Christian leaders of Palestine and Jordan reaffirmed the need for preservation of the religious and cultural heritage of the Arab city of Jerusalem which houses sacred Christian and Muslim holy monuments.

"The City of Jerusalem which shelters these shrines venerated by more than two and half billion adherents should remain open and free for all humanity and therefore ought not to be the victim of neither aggression nor the force of occupation," it read.

"This holy city appeals to all who believe in God as well as all social, religious, and cultural organisations who must act to end the Israeli occupation of the Holy Shrines and to prevent Zionists from distorting the image and character of the Arab city by destroy-



The Dome of the Rock stands a few metres away from Al Aqsa Mosque which suffered severe damage after a Jewish extremist attempted to incinerate it in 1969 (File photo)

ing its holy sites through continued excavations," added the statement.

The statement drew attention to Israel's continual drive to build settlements on confiscated Arab land within the Jerusalem area and urged the international community to pressure the Israeli government to repudiate such illegal measures and comply with UN resolutions concerning Jerusalem.

Also on the eve of the anniversary, the Al Aqsa Mosque director at the Ministry of Awqaf and

Islamic Affairs Sheikh Rafiq Al Khatib Tamimi recalled that His Majesty King Hussein has afforded special attention to the restoration of the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock and that since 1954 through a special committee of the ministry the King has spent \$19 million on restoration work including \$10 million from his personal assets.

Addressing the meeting Tuesday former Minister of Public Works Raef Nijem said that the 1969 arson was not of the work of one

person, but rather an action complicit with Israeli authorities to harm the shrine.

He maintained that the Israeli municipality cut the water supply from the mosque area to prevent the local people from extinguishing the blaze.

But the Arab residents of the city managed to secure sufficient water for extinguishing the five hour fire, he said.

Mr. Nijem also drew attention to recurrent Israeli excavations below the shrine intended to

accelerate its eventual collapse.

Former Prime Minister Taher Masihi addressed the ceremony and called on Arabs and Muslims internationally to unify their stance in the face of such Israeli illegal operations.

He spoke of recently formed committees for the defence of Jerusalem which group Jordanian and Palestinian, Christian and Muslim notables dedicated to rallying world support for ending the occupation and halting desecration of holy shrines in Jerusalem.



Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Saad Hayel Srour Tuesday meets with visiting deputy speaker of the Algerian National Assembly Abdul Oader Bouquareina to discuss ways to bolster Jordanian-Algerian collaboration particularly in parliamentary domains (Petra photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

New fund to collect donations for needy students

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of Her Majesty Queen Noor's birthday which falls on Friday, a newly established student relief fund at Noor Al Hussein Foundation will start collecting donations to help needy students as schools prepare to open their doors for the new scholastic year on Saturday. The Al Ilm Noor (Knowledge is Light) fund will distribute the donations among eligible students at public schools throughout the Kingdom.

Tourist activity unaffected by tumult — ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — An official source at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Tuesday denied reports that recent skirmishes in some parts of the Kingdom will affect tourist activity. The source affirmed that all reservations were fixed and that no cancellations had taken place.

RSCN meets with Syrian delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — A Syrian delegation representing the Ministry of Agriculture Tuesday arrived in the Kingdom on a ten-day visit to attend a training programme prepared by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). RSCN Director General Khaled Irani said the programme is an outbranch of the agreement signed by RSCN delegation with the Syrian Ministry of Agriculture earlier this year. The programme includes a visit to Wadi Al Mujib, Al Shomari and Al Azraq Reserves.

Ministry urges preparedness for school year

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Education Secretary General Izzat Jaradat Tuesday presided over a meeting for vocational directorate and public education directorate personnel. Mr Jaradat emphasised an obligation that directors resolve any present complications which may face their institutions before the commencement of the scholastic year. He affirmed the ministry has created a general plan for a successful initiation of the school year.

JBA bids farewell to ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) Tuesday organised a meeting with the Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Michel de Salaberry and the German Ambassador Heinrich Reimers on the occasion of the conclusion of their tour of duty. JBA President Hamdi Tabba welcomed the two ambassadors and praised their role in developing relations with Jordan in diverse fields. Minister of Social Development Hammad Abu Jamous also attended the assembly.

Garden installed in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Six public gardens were installed this year by the Gardens Department of Amman Municipality in various parts of Amman governorate. The appellations of the gardens are Al Sahafiyen, Al Shaab, Hitteen, Al Muhameen, Al Amn Al Amm and Al Wannanat. The total cost of these gardens came to JD 186,000.

WHAT'S GOING ON

SEMINAR

• "Readings in the Arabic Music" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

FILM

• "You Only Live Twice" (James Bond 007) at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

• Opening of "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh at 6:00 p.m. (to be followed by a concert of "oriental jazz" by Iraqi musician Ihsan Madfa'i at 7:30 p.m.)

• "A Summer Souvenir" exhibition by Jordan River Designs, Adl Centre, Shamsani (Tel. 8130812), until Aug. 25.

• Wrought-iron exhibition by Salim Bandak at Kan Zanan, until Aug. 21.

• Abstract art by Jordanian artist Abeer Bawab at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Indonesia, Jordan cement talks on vocational training

AMMAN (Petra) — Indonesian and Jordanian officials agreed Tuesday to exchange vocational training curricula as well as educational plans and programmes concerning vocational and human resource training in the two countries.

Visiting Indonesian Minister of Manpower met with the Director General of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Ali Nasrallah in a conference attended by officials from both countries.

Mr. Nasrallah briefed the Indonesian minister on the role of the VTC in Jordan, elucidating that the corporation centres around the country have certified 110,000

trainees since 1977 and mentioned that the instruction is conducted in conjunction with private enterprises such as factories in order to secure adequately qualified manpower.

He also outlined the VTC's partnership with vocational training institutions in Arab and international countries to better educate and inform young trainees in Jordan.

Indonesian Ambassador to Jordan Eddy Sumanartari presented an overview regarding vocational training programmes in his country asserting that these training centres turn out highly skilled people for particular trades.

Saudis scout for female teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — A group representing various educational departments in Saudi Arabia arrived in Amman and began their search for Jordanian women teachers to work at girls schools in Saudi Arabia, according to Sheikh Suleiman Zayed, member of a Saudi council designated to procure such contracts.

After meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday to brief him on the committee's goals, Sheikh Zayed released a statement that Jordanian women instructors to be selected for work will be employed at Saudi Arabian public schools and at women teacher training colleges.

Sheikh Zayed further informed the Prime Minister that his committee has finalised contracts with 2500 Jordanian male teachers, the first group of which left by air for Saudi Arabia Monday to assume their posts there at the start of the scholastic year later this month.

Speaking at the meeting Mr. Kabariti voiced Jordan's satisfaction with the betterment in relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia and emphasised the Jordanian government's determination to further the alliance.

He also expressed Jordan's gratitude to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia who instructed the Saudi government to employ Jordanian teachers in the hope that this might help resolve the Kingdom's unemployment dilemma.

Sheikh Zayed described his meeting with the Prime Minister as fruitful, quoting Mr. Kabariti as demonstrating interest in the Saudi committee's mission with a pledge to provide the best possible teachers to work in Saudi Arabian schools.

The 2500 teachers who depart this week for Saudi Arabia resume duties at public and private institutions, at teacher training colleges, and schools providing special education for handicapped children.

Madaba Mosaics School to grant scholarships

By Shehab Makahleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Teaching and training programmes for the Madaba Mosaics School recently benefited from increased attention as directors of the institution joined with selected ministers to discuss its projected future.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irshaid Monday joined with the Italian charge d'affaires at the Italian Embassy Rafaeli de Benedicti as well as Cultural Attaché Giovanni Benenati to review the school's progress and possibilities for renewal.

Mr. Benenati told the Jordan Times that the school was established in 1992 and began its training programme for Jordanian students in the first

phase of the project. He added that the school is unique in the Middle East and provides students with both technical assistance and academic training.

"Our goal is to provide Jordanian students with both theoretical and practical models,"

Mr. Benenati confirmed that the school had granted seven scholarships in the last four years to students invested in strengthening their restoration and maintenance capacities and that they anticipate granting increased scholarships in the next two years.

To be eligible for enrolment in the faculty, he added, students must have completed the tenth grade level; they then study for two years in the Madaba school until they are

awarded the Tawjihi certification in the industrial field.

"We are currently working with the Ministry of Education to conceive of a method that students who embark on a work-study programme for an additional year might receive a diploma in addition to their certification."

Department of Antiquities Director General Ghazi Bisheh, Madaba Mosaics School Coordinator Giuseppe Infranca, Father Michele Piccirillo and mosaics experts Sergio Pezzi and Antonio Vaccalluzzo also attended the meeting which focused on restoration projects of Mosaics Map in the Apostles Church in Madaba.

They also conferred about issues related to tourism.



Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Majali presides over a meeting at his office Tuesday to discuss internal regulations for a national council entrusted with supervising the implementation of the national building code. The code is designed to reign in construction operations and to end random and disorganised operations so that public safety may be ensured (Petra photo)

Police assault ends S. Korean campus siege

SEOUL (R) — South Korean riot police backed by helicopters and assault troops stormed a Seoul campus Tuesday to end a seven-day occupation by students demanding reunification with North Korea.

They smashed through a bonfire of wooden desks and chairs engulfing the main entrance of a teaching block and flushed out about 1,000 mostly female students after a pitched battle.

Hours later, a further 1,000 or so terrified students holed up in a nearby science block fled into alleys and hills surrounding the Yonsei University campus where they were hunted down. They had earlier threatened to explode gas canisters and dangerous chemicals seized from laboratories.

In all 3,225 students were arrested, bringing the total held in a week of pro-Pyongyang agitation at Yonsei to around 5,500.

Dozens of students were injured in the assault by denim-clad riot police trained in martial arts and many had blood streaming from head wounds as they were dragged away.

A South Korean news photographer was in critical condition in hospital after being struck on the head by a rock.

The raid started just before dawn when police helicopters skimmed low over the classroom complex and dropped liquid teargas on students packed on the roof.

Thousands of riot police rushed the building, occupied by undergraduates calling for unity with North



A student-built barricade at the entrance to the combined studies building on the South Korean Yonsei University campus burns shortly after riot police began an assault on the building at dawn in Seoul Tuesday (Reuter photo)

Korea on Pyongyang's terms that would leave the governments of both North and South intact.

The students also demanded the withdrawal of U.S. troops stationed in the South, which is still technically at war with the North since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Police held aloft metal shields as students rained

down rocks, desks, chairs and petrol bombs.

After leaping across flames at the entrance and clambering through smashed windows, they were briefly beaten back by a raging fire in the lobby.

Firefighters successfully brought the blaze under control.

By then, some students on the roof were waving white

flags to signal surrender.

On the rooftop of an adjacent building, assault troops dropped by helicopter and wearing black balaclavas trained automatic weapons on student occupiers.

One male student clung by his fingertips from the roof and threatened to let go in a suicide bid before changing his mind.

Police grabbed and pummeled him with their fists. Large parts of the classroom building were gutted by fire and equipment was smashed beyond repair.

Students fleeing from the science block scrambled over alleyway rooftops in their desperation to avoid club-wielding police. Some resisted arrest by hurling rocks and brandishing iron bars.

Minutes before their escape, a student leader denounced the raid at a news conference as a "murderous crackdown."

On Saturday police cut off food and medicine to the students. Dozens were rushed to hospital Monday suffering from hunger and exhaustion.

Militant students find themselves isolated from a hostile public as they press their violent campaign for reunification.

Heroes of the battle for democracy in the late 1980s, when the middle classes rallied behind them, the radical students have now alienated ordinary South Koreans by embracing Pyongyang's blueprint for a single Korea.

Tuesday's assault was the worst campus violence since President Kim Young-Sam took power in 1993.



A South Korean riot policeman walks over the heads and bodies of captured students on the rooftop of the combined studies building on the Yonsei University campus in Seoul Tuesday. South Korean riot police, backed by helicopters and assault troops, stormed into Seoul university building ending the seven-day violent occupation by students demanding reunification with North Korea (Reuter photo)

Thai politician expresses himself with gifts

BANGKOK (R) — Thaksin Shinawatra, the tycoon-turned-politician leader of the Palang Dharma Party which recently pulled out of the coalition government, is showering his former colleagues with expensive gifts. Mr. Thaksin, who made a fortune in telecommunications and computers before turning to politics, is known for lavishing his friends and colleagues with expensive presents. Last week, Mr. Thaksin said he sent a 145,800 baht (\$5,832) bottle of Romance-Cout wine to Prime Minister Banham Silpa-Archa after pulling the Palang Dharma out of Mr. Banham's 13-month-old coalition government. He said he sent the wine to apologise for leaving the government, which is now facing a no-confidence debate. On Tuesday, Deputy Prime Minister Somboon Rahong surprised bystanders when he drove up to government house in a brand new black Daimler car. "It is a present given to me by Thaksin," Mr. Somboon, a member of Mr. Banham's Chart Thai Party, told reporters. "He just said that he liked me, then gave me this. It is not appropriate for me to turn down a present given to me by a millionaire," he said, adding that he did not know the price of the present but estimated it was worth about six million baht.

Cook chops up seductress boss

HONG KONG (R) — A Hong Kong dim sum cook has told a court he chopped up his temptress boss into 11 pieces after she stripped off her clothes in his bedroom and tried to seduce him. Zeng Liangxin, a 31-year-old worker imported from China who went on trial for the murder Monday, told the court he killed the woman because he feared she would accuse him of rape after he had spurned her, the South China Morning Post newspaper said. He decapitated the body and carved it into chunks that he threw into a river, he told Monday's hearing. But he slept with her legs that night after becoming too exhausted with the grisly task and fearing that he would be spotted if he made too many trips with the dismembered body. He dumped the legs the next morning, he said. Zeng is a specialist in dim sum, a style of Chinese teahouse snacks popular among the local Cantonese population as well as in Chinatowns overseas.

Man commits suicide with toilet paper

TOKYO (R) — A man detained in a police cell in northern Japan committed suicide by stuffing toilet paper down his throat, police said Tuesday. The 45-year-old man, arrested for allegedly setting fire to his own shop, was found Sunday in the police cell with five metres of toilet paper stuffed down his throat, said a spokesman for Toyohira Police in Hokkaido, northern Japan. "We tried pulling out the paper from his mouth, but he looked pretty suffocated already. He probably would have been dead in the cell if we had found him a few minutes later," the police spokesman said. The man was taken to hospital but died Monday. Guards patrol the cells every 15 minutes, and the man was last seen squatting in the toilet in his cell, according to the spokesman. "We can't leave the toilets fully open to view because of human rights considerations...nor can we leave the toilets without paper," the spokesman said. Police said the man was drunk at the time of the arrest and said he had set the shop on fire because he was feeling irritated.

Former Arkansas governor gets probation in Whitewater case

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — A federal judge Monday gave former Arkansas Governor Jim Guy Tucker four years probation for his part in a Whitewater-related case, but postponed sentencing of businessman James McDougal in the clearest sign yet that Mr. McDougal was cutting a deal with prosecutors.

Mr. Tucker, who resigned his office in July, escaped without jail time because of a life-threatening liver problem that physicians testified had a 50 per cent chance of killing him within two years if he does not get a liver transplant.

"The court is convinced that a sanction requiring imprisonment would be as cruel as a grave," U.S. District Judge George Howard said. He said Mr. Tucker could not leave his home for 18 months except to receive medical treatment or attend church, and ordered him to pay \$294,000 in restitution to the Small Business Administration and \$25,000 in fines.

Mr. Tucker, James McDougal and his ex-wife Susan McDougal were convicted in May on charges they defrauded federally-backed financial institutions in a complex mid-1980s plot to raise money for real estate and business ventures. Susan McDougal was



Former Arkansas Governor Jim Guy Tucker (Reuter photo)

to be sentenced Tuesday.

Prosecutors alleged one of the illicit deals improperly benefited the failed Whitewater Development Corporation in which President Bill Clinton, then-governor of Arkansas, and his wife Hillary were partners with the McDougals.

In an order dated Aug. 9 and unsealed Monday just hours before sentencing, Judge Howard postponed James McDougal's sentencing until Nov. 18. He also imposed a gag order on all involved.

Reports began surfacing last week that Mr. McDougal was negotiating with the team of independent counsel Kenneth Starr, who is leading the Whitewater

probe into Mr. Clinton's personal and political finances, and a deal was in the works.

Sources close to Mr. McDougal said Sunday the reports were true, but Mr. Starr refused to confirm them Monday after the sentencing.

He did tell reporters the Whitewater investigation was "moving forward very rapidly" on several fronts. Neither he nor Ray Jahn would discuss Tucker's light sentence, but Mr. Jahn had asked Judge Howard to give the former governor a "substantial period" in prison.

A plea bargain deal between Mr. McDougal and prosecutors could be worrying for the White House because Mr. McDougal was closer to Mr. Clinton than anyone else brought to trial so far in the politically charged Whitewater investigation. Along with their partnership in the disastrous Whitewater venture, the two men were close political allies for many years.

The president was not charged in the Whitewater case, but a key prosecution witness alleged Mr. Clinton pressured him to extend an illegal \$300,000 loan to Susan McDougal in 1986.

Mr. Clinton denied the allegations in videotaped testimony.

U.S. Navy says its jets tailed Qantas plane

TOKYO (R) — The United States stepped forward Tuesday to reveal that two of its fighter jets, not Japanese planes, flew close to a Qantas passenger aircraft off Japan 12 days ago.

The acknowledgement came after Australian Broadcasting Corp (ABC) reported that Qantas Flight 22 from Tokyo to Sydney was tailed by Japanese military aircraft off Japan's Pacific coast on Aug. 8.

"Two U.S. Navy F/A-18 'Hornet' fighter aircraft flew below and came no closer than 1,200 feet to a Qantas Airlines 747 at 11.54 a.m., Aug. 8, 20 miles northeast of Japan's Miyake-Jima," the U.S. military command said in a statement released in Tokyo.

"The 1,200 foot separation is within authorised International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) procedures, and regarded by ICAO standards as both safe and acceptable," the statement said.

The two fighter aircraft were flying on the edge of a designated military training area below the Qantas 747, the statement said.

Hunt for girls widens in Belgian sex scandal

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian police have turned to other countries in their search for two teenage girls who were abducted a year ago by a convicted child sex offender at the heart of a widening sex scandal, Belgian media said Tuesday.

The media spotlight focused particularly on the Czech Republic, but there were also reports that Interpol in Germany, the Netherlands and France had been asked for help.

There has been widespread speculation the two may have been sold into prostitution, possibly

in the Czech Republic. Officials in the case would only say there were foreign leads.

"Unbearable," Het Laatste Nieuws newspaper said, referring to the tension being borne by the parents of An Marchal and Eefje Lambrechts, who went missing at the Belgian port of Ostend in August 1995.

BRTN radio Tuesday quoted An's father, Paul Marchal, as saying it could still be a matter of days before the case was solved.

BRTN said a fifth suspect in the case had been

detained after a series of house searches Monday but magistrates in charge of the case in Neufchateau, southern Belgium, were not immediately available for comment.

The main suspect in the biggest child sex scandal in Belgian history is Marc Dutroux, a convicted child abuser and unemployed father of three.

Mr. Dutroux and associate Michel Lelievre were formally charged last Friday with abduction and illegal imprisonment after police rescued Laetitia Delhez, 14, and

Sabine Dardenne, 12, from a cell in a house owned by Mr. Dutroux. Both girls had been sexually abused.

Michelle Martin, Mr. Dutroux' second wife, was charged Monday with being an accomplice.

National euphoria at the rescue turned to dismay and anger at the weekend when Mr. Dutroux led police to the bodies of eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo, who had died of starvation early this year after being kidnapped in June 1995.

The children will be

buried Thursday.

The leader of the investigation into the case of British serial killers Fred and Rosemary West, whose house and garden in Gloucester contained the bodies of several murdered women, has offered to help Belgian investigators, BRTN radio said.

Brussels businessman Jean-Michel Nihoul arrived amid tight security at the Neufchateau Court building Tuesday. He is to be formally charged with criminal association. Assistant Magistrate Jean-Paul Pavanello said Monday.

BRTN radio said the fifth arrested person is the Dutch boyfriend of Mr. Nihoul's former wife. His house in Brussels and caravan in Dinant, southern Belgium, have been searched.

Belgian newspaper Het Nieuwsblad said Mr. Dutroux abducted girls for a network with international links.

BRTN said a total of 15 house searches had been carried out Monday. Public anger spread further at the fact that Mr. Dutroux had been released for good behaviour 10 years early in 1992 from a 13-year sen-

tence for rape and child abuse.

Former Belgian Justice Minister Melchior Wathelet, blamed by Julie's and Melissa's parents for having approved Mr. Dutroux's release, said he too was shocked.

But he told BRTN radio he had released him in good faith on the basis of a full judicial report.

At least 15 children have disappeared in Belgium in the past six years. Seven have now been found dead, six are still missing and only two — Delhez and Dardenne — have been rescued.

Thai politician expresses himself with gifts



A Rwandan Hutu refugee tries to salvage plastic sheeting from his hut which was set ablaze by the Tutsi dominated Burundian army as part of an intimidation campaign to force the 30,000 Rwandans remaining in Burundi to go home (Reuters photo)

Burundi coup leader wants refugees protected

BUTARE, Rwanda (Agencies) — Burundi's new Tutsi strongman Pierre Buyoya is opposed to any expulsions of Rwandan Hutu refugees from northern Burundi and has sent a team to investigate the reasons behind their movement, his spokesman said Tuesday.

But in neighbouring Rwanda, aid agencies prepared to receive thousands more Rwandan Hutus, who say they are fleeing Magara Camp in northern Burundi because of intimidation and beatings by Major Buyoya's Tutsi-dominated army.

In Brussels, the European Union (EU) called on the ethnically divided central African country to seek peace.

The EU statement issued by Ireland — which holds the rotating presidency of the 15-nation bloc — said that the EU was deeply concerned about the situation in Burundi.

Maj. Buyoya's spokesman Jean-Luc Ndirizeye told Reuters by telephone that the new president of Burundi remained committed to international conventions on the protection of refugees.

"The president expects refugees to stay where they are. He does not expect any movements at all today," Mr. Ndirizeye said.

In Butare, aid agencies prepared to receive some 4,500 refugees Tuesday. "We are expecting some 4,500 refugees today (Tuesday)," Stephano Severe, head of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Butare, told Reuters.

Shortly after the July 25 coup that brought him to power, Maj. Buyoya ordered an end to expulsions of Rwandan Hutu refugees.

Mr. Ndirizeye said the latest movements by thousands of refugees from the north were not part of official policy but were caused by panic on the part of the refugees after the army entered Magara Sunday to search for arms.

He said Burundian army position near Magara had come under fire Saturday and Sunday forcing soldiers to move into the camp to search for weapons and ammunition.

"It is not the position of our government to send them (refugees) back. They have decided to leave on their own, many panicked when the army searched the camp. They are welcome to stay for as long as they want," Mr. Ndirizeye said.

He said any one found guilty of inciting refugees to leave against their will

would be punished. "The president is not going back on his word to protect refugees," he said.

The exodus of Rwandan refugees back to Rwanda picked up after troops killed three refugees at Magara Camp. Refugees accused the army of killing them as part of a campaign of intimidation.

Army spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Jean Minani confirmed Tuesday that soldiers killed the three but said they fired only after one refugee pulled out a revolver and shot at them.

UNHCR's Severe said he expected Magara, the biggest of Rwandan refugee camps in Burundi with an initial population of more than 45,000 people, to be emptied within two to three days.

"We have got 65 trucks at the ready today (Tuesday) and if the returns continue like this, it will only be a matter of two to three days before we finish the repatriations from Magara," he said.

Some 7,000 refugees returned to Rwanda Monday leaving around 24,000 at Magara and 13,000 at Rukamigabo Camp in neighbouring Kirundo province, Paul Stromberg, regional spokesman for the UNHCR,

told Reuters. Around two million Rwandan Hutus fled their homeland to Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi in 1994 after Tutsi rebels defeated the Hutu army and ousted the government, blamed for the genocide of up to one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Burundian authorities accuse the refugees of supporting Hutu rebels waging a guerrilla war against the Burundian army in which 150,000 people have died since 1993.

Hutu rebels are battling military forces for control of roads leading to Rwanda to prevent any breach of the regional embargo against the impoverished central African nation, a rebel spokesman said Tuesday.

"We want to prevent a violation of the regional economic embargo against Burundi," said Jerome Ndiho, spokesman for the National Council for the Defence of Democracy, the political wing of the rebel Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD).

Rwanda earlier this month joined several African neighbours in slapping an economic embargo on Burundi in protest at the Tutsi army-led coup on July 25. But the Hutu rebels, who have been fighting the Burundian army for three years, suspect that Rwanda's Tutsi minority wants to break the blockade.

Mr. Ndiho said the rebels are attempting to destroy military positions and control movement on two national highways which traverse the central-west province of Muramvya and the central province of Gitega.

"We can control everything that comes from Rwanda," he said. Independent sources in the capital Bujumbura have reported clashes between the army and the rebels in both provinces.

"The army has not succeeded in dislodging the FDD, to its fury," said Mr. Ndiho, also accusing the military of retaliating against Hutu peasant farmers suspected of siding with the rebels.



A young Rwandan Hutu refugee boy is helped onto one of several trucks used to repatriate some 8,000 refugees back to Rwanda. The refugees are leaving Burundi following an intimidation campaign by the Tutsi dominated Burundian army in the Magara Camp near Ngozi (Reuters photo)

20 wounded in Dhaka University gun battles

DHAKA (AFP) — Heavy rain and a strong police presence helped reduce tension at Dhaka University Tuesday after a night of clashes between rival student groups which left 20 people wounded.

The heavy rain and police presence partly dampened overnight tension despite a protest strike called by an opposition student group which left classrooms and offices shut closed, they said.

Witnesses said rival groups of students tried to start a protest march at the Arts Faculty area, but were forced to retreat when the downpour started.

Police patrolled the downtown university campus Tuesday after the gun battle late Monday between student activists from the ruling Awami League and the rival Bangladesh Nationalist

Party (BNP). The two sides exchanged gunfire and threw crude bombs in a dispute over control of dormitories and student union offices.

One pro-government student leader told AFP that leaders of the rival groups agreed to immediately hold peace talks at a campus canteen Tuesday to defuse tension. The meeting started with top leaders from both sides, he said without giving immediate details.

A senior constable was among the wounded and was admitted to hospital after being hit by bomb fragments, police sources said. They could not provide details of the other victims.

Newspaper reports said activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) backed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, evicted ri-

vals from the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of the opposition BNP from two dormitories during the fighting.

Police patrols had been intensified and no fresh clashes were reported Tuesday, a university official said, adding the classes remained suspended.

The volatile campus has been a stronghold of the JCD and tension has been growing since the rival Awami League came to power.

In June, with the BCL trying to regain control over the students' unions and dormitories.

Witnesses said BCL activists, who apparently took possession of the dormitories, assaulted several JCD activists and ransacked their rooms.

The overnight gunbattle is the first major violence at the university campus since Sheikh Hasina's

government came to power on a promise to free the campus of frequent armed violence and restore an academic atmosphere.

The fighting came amid press reports in the past weeks that rival students groups were building up their strength for a showdown. Both have blamed each other for the arms build up.

Occasional police raids in the campus in recent months under Home Ministry directives failed to make any major weapons seizures or arrests.

The JCD dominates student unions in most Bangladesh educational institutions, some of them, including two medical colleges, were forced to shut in the past few days following clashes between rival groups.

Residents flee Grozny over Russian bombing threat

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Terrified civilians flooded out of the Chechen capital Tuesday after a top Russian military official threatened to use planes and heavy artillery to drive separatist forces from the city.

The refugees, many of them with little more than the clothes in which they stood, said Russian planes had started bombing the town, much of it already in ruins after attacks at the start of Russia's campaign to crush Chechnya's independence bid.

"The whole city is on its way out," said Nina Madayeva, who said 12 planes had bombed Grozny's southwestern Chernorechye district overnight. "We've been in a basement for 14 or 15 days and couldn't stand it any more."

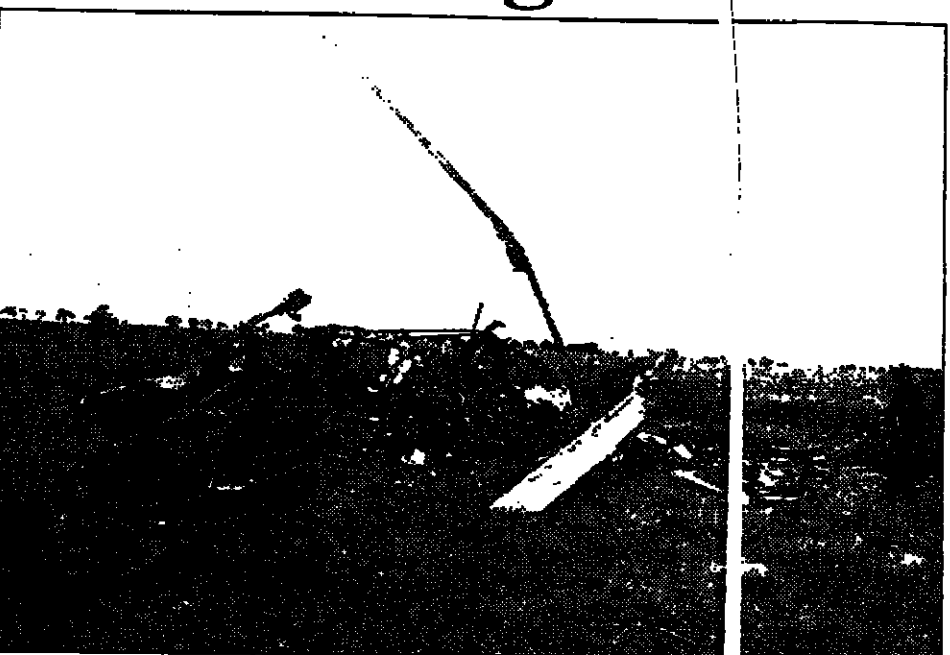
Konstantin Pulikovskiy, Russia's acting commander in Chechnya, said his forces had begun artillery attacks on rebels in Grozny and would bomb the city if needed to drive them out. But he denied that bombing had already started.

Gen. Pulikovskiy, who signed a ceasefire order Saturday, accused the guerrillas of using the truce to dig in in the regional capital, much of which they seized two weeks ago.

"I see force as the only way out of the situation in Grozny," he told Interfax News Agency.

Rebel Chief-of-Staff Aslan Maskhadov appealed to Kremlin security chief Alexander Lebed, who has held talks with the rebels and opposed the use of aircraft, to rein in Gen. Pulikovskiy's troops.

President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy in Chechnya should "use all of his influence to stop the approaching madness," Interfax quoted Mr. Maskhadov as saying.



A Chechen man looks at a destroyed Russian Ministry of Information building in Grozny, after being shot down by rebel forces in Dolskoye, west of Grozny. Russian spokesman quoted on Ekho Moskvy radio, despite a truce agreed upon by the two sides last week (Reuters photo)

ITAR-TASS news agency said Gen. Lebed would travel to Chechnya Wednesday — his third visit to the region in just over a week. TASS said Gen. Lebed remained committed to a peaceful solution to the Chechen conflict.

The rebels, who seek independence for their territory, swept into Grozny on Aug. 6, seizing key buildings and trapping Russian soldiers in their checkpoints and in the central government complex.

Gen. Pulikovskiy, who Monday gave civilians 48 hours to leave before he unleashes an all-out bombardment, said Tuesday he was determined to drive the rebels out.

Doku Zavgayev, who heads the Moscow-backed administration in Chechnya, told a news conference that 50,000 people had fled Grozny in the last two weeks, but he believed

300,000 were still living in the city. "As long as there are so many civilians in the town the use of force, let alone a full-scale operation, is totally unacceptable," he said.

Mr. Zavgayev and his administration colleagues, viewed as stooges by the separatists, have spoken out frequently against Russian military action in recent months, although its own security depends on the troops which moved into Chechnya in December 1994.

Gen. Pulikovskiy's views are in sharp contrast with those of Gen. Lebed, who won guarded approval from rebel leaders in two visits to Chechnya last week. His spokesman told TASS Monday, before the army threat, that Gen. Lebed opposed bombing.

"Aerial bombardment as a military method of solving the problem, even with the

evacuation of civilians, will lead to widening the conflict zone," the spokesman, Alexander Barkhatov, quoted Gen. Lebed as saying.

Gen. Pulikovskiy, who met Commander Maskhadov twice last week to arrange the latest truce, said he was sure of the backing of Russia's leadership in the interests of the state.

The Kremlin and the army have sounded different notes on Chechnya in the past. In 1994, Mr. Yeltsin, trying to end the war before the presidential election in July, ordered a halt to an offensive in March, but the generals continued bombarding Chechen villages.

Mr. Yeltsin won a lull with a ceasefire in May, but after his reelection in September, he ordered the army to resume its offensive. The rebels say they provoked their raid.

S. Africa's PAC admits targeting white civilians

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's radical black Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) Tuesday acknowledged that its guerrillas targeted white civilians but said it made no apologies.

PAC leader Clarence Makwetu told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, headed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, that the PAC regretted the 1993 killing of American student Amy Biehl in a black township outside Cape Town by youths allied to the organization.

Discussing the activities of the PAC's armed wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), Mr. Makwetu said "a new pattern arose in the 1990s where civilians within the white community were attacked."

"The actual targets were decided by local commanders... Operatives often made errors that APLA had earlier avoided."

Mr. Makwetu described the killing of civilians as "departures which we as political leaders who declared war must do take responsibility for."

But he added: "We make no apologies. We have nothing to hide."

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is hearing submissions this week

from political parties aimed at giving a broad perspective of their activities during apartheid.

The PAC broke away from the African National Congress in 1959 but never achieved the mass appeal of President Nelson Mandela's party.

Less than two per cent of South Africans voted for the PAC in the country's first all-race elections in April 1994.

Police blamed APLA for a series of bloody attacks in the years leading up to the election, including one on a Cape Town church service and others on white social gatherings.

Mr. Makwetu said the PAC objected to the format of the Truth Commission because "our people who were forced to fight a war of liberation are being made to appear on the same platform as their aggressors."

"Perpetrators of the apartheid crime against humanity as well as their victims are being equated," he said.

The right-wing Freedom Front made its presentation to the commission Monday and the National Party, led by former white President F.W. de Klerk, is due to present its submission Wednesday.

Poll shows Dole slices into Clinton's lead

NEW YORK (R) — Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole got a boost from his party's convention and has sliced into President Bill Clinton's still-solid lead, a New York Times/CBS News poll reported Tuesday.

But the survey showed that many voters still are sceptical about Sen. Dole's tax-cut proposal and are split in their opinion about the former Kansas senator himself.

The poll showed 50 per cent of registered voters surveyed would support Mr. Clinton, a Democrat, and Vice President Al Gore if the election were held today, while 39 per cent backed Sen. Dole and his running mate Jack Kemp.

The 11-point gap represents a gain of 5 percentage points for Sen. Dole and a loss of 6 for Mr. Clinton compared with a Times/CBS News poll taken shortly before last week's Republican National Convention.

A separate CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll put Mr. Clinton's lead at 7 points, with the president ahead 48 per cent to Sen. Dole's 41 per cent.

The poll said Sen. Dole picked up 11 points since the Republican convention, largely due to the selection of Jack Kemp as his running mate.

On Sen. Dole's proposal for a 15 per cent tax cut along with a balanced budget, 32 per cent of those surveyed said they thought taxes would go up if he were elected in November.

Twenty-four per cent said taxes would decrease and 40 per cent said they would stay the same.

Sixty-three per cent of respondents said Sen. Dole had not explained his economic plan enough versus 27 per cent who said he had.

Twenty-nine per cent of voters had a favourable opinion of Sen. Dole and 32 per cent did not. Fifty-four per cent said he had made it clear what he wanted to do as president, and 40 per cent said he had not.

The poll of 1,138 adults was conducted Friday through Sunday and has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

The CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll was based on interviews with 1,006 registered voters from Friday through Sunday and also had a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

Meanwhile, consumer rights crusader Ralph Nader was nominated Monday as the Green Party's presidential candidate.

The nomination highlighted a Green Party conference, titled "building critical mass — a green gather '96," held at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Mr. Nader is a potent consumer advocate who came to prominence 30 years ago for a tacking automobile safety standards. He runs the Washington D.C.-based centre for the study of responsive law.

Around 400 audience members cheered "go Ralph go" and waved "Nader '96" placards at a campus auditorium, where Mr. Nader gave his acceptance speech. It came after an afternoon meeting in which Green Party representatives from 30 states formally nominated him.

"He's currently on 12 (state) ballots and we expect to have him on 30," said Michael Feinstein, a Green Party spokesman. He expects another 15 states to make Mr. Nader a write-in candidate for the Nov. 5 election.

"All but four states have a write-in process," he said.

U.S. orders retaliatory Cuban expulsion

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Monday it was kicking out a Cuban diplomat in retaliation for the expulsion of a U.S. diplomat from Cuba who had specialised in promoting human rights.

The State Department disclosed that Cuba revoked the visa last week of Robin Meyer, accusing her of activities "incompatible with her diplomatic status" — diplomatic parlance for spying.

"We categorically reject that assertion and protest in the

strongest terms the Cuban government's action in requiring her to leave," the department said in a statement.

It said Ms. Meyer, an officer in the U.S. interests section "with primary responsibility for human rights issues," was given until Wednesday to depart Cuba.

In what it called a reciprocal response, the department said it revoked the visa Monday of Jose Luis Ponce Caraballo, a spokesman for the Cuban interests section of the Swiss embassy in Washington.

Jordan Times

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Off to a new start

THE FLURRY of political and civic activity that the cities and towns of Jordan have been witnessing in the past two days indicates a consensus, or a near consensus at the events of this past week that should not derail us from achieving our declared goals of democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights and self-reliance.

Although initially there was a wide gap between those who opposed the government decision to lift subsidies and those who supported it, it now appears that the divide is narrowing. Jordanians from all walks of life, officials, parliamentarians, community leaders and ordinary citizens are taking the initiative to end the unrest and the confusion in the country and the groups that took contradictory positions on the issue of bread.

But despite the existence of small groups or individuals who would still benefit from the continuation of those sad events, the vast majority of Jordanians is in agreement that the destruction of state property must be condemned but that, hoodlums apart, there was no reason for the increase in prices. The prime minister himself affirmed that there were "some pockets of poverty" in the country and that it was his government's business to take care of the needy and the poor.

In the meantime, it was heartening to hear parliamentarians from Karak and the south condemning the acts of violence and of vandalism committed during the rioting. Their voices, after meeting the prime minister yesterday, spoke louder and clearer than those from other districts who said essentially the same words on television a couple of days ago.

There still remain among us those who say that the riot acts must not go unpunished and those who claim that the reactions of the authorities was too harsh, either during the disturbances or afterwards. Yet we are sure that with the all-too-well-known magnanimity of the King and the tolerance and the wisdom he has always shown, coupled with the right use of the law, the agony of the last few days will soon be replaced by the ties and feelings of fraternity and cohesion that this country has always lived with.

Jordan can only reach that point. It cannot at this crucial hour afford to go wrong. We trust the coming days will prove that we are moving on the right track.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Dustour Tuesday accused the government of Abdul Karim Al Kabarti of failing to manage a successful dialogue with the deputies in parliament and the political parties in order to deal with the bread subsidy issue. The failure came primarily because the government had taken its decision on the subsidy question in advance without consulting other parties, said Taher Al Adwan. When the government needed parliament's support for the endorsement of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty it sought the vote of majority which it finally got to achieve, it ends but when the majority of parliament members showed opposition to the government's plans on subsidies the government took a completely different position, noted the writer. In addition to agitators reportedly responsible for instigating the crowds to carry out sabotage acts the government should be held responsible for the events in the south, he maintained. It is the government which adopted policies that created an explosive atmosphere despite the advice against such policies coming from various political and other groups, added the writer. The government's policies which led to paralysing the work of parliament and ended up with the regrettable events in the south should be re-examined, said the writer who demanded that Parliament and the government should work hand in hand to avert further disturbances.

A writer for Al Ra'i drew attention to the rising numbers of cafes in residential quarters in western Amman districts, saying that these cafes have become a main source for disturbing peace. Nazih said cited Al Rabiye district as an example where he said more than 12 cafes have sprung up within this normally quiet residential district, with boisterous customers and noisy disturbing local residents. The writer said these cafes have been transformed into centres where teenagers of all kinds and from various districts of Amman meet to cause so much noise that makes peace for sleeping children impossible, especially in the early evening hours. The writer demanded that the concerned authorities find a prompt solution to this problem noting that repeated complaints by the local residents have gone unheeded until now.

Washington Watch

Dole and Kemp emerge

By Dr. James Zogby

BOB DOLE'S presidential campaign had a very good week. A surprising choice for a vice-presidential running mate and a highly controlled Republican Convention has finally given the Dole campaign the energy it needed to compete in the race to November.

In retrospect, Mr. Dole's announcement of a 15 per cent tax cut for all Americans was just an initial sign of the effort that was to be made by Republicans to turn their campaign around.

Plagued for months by growing dissatisfaction with their candidate's performance, a few Republican commentators echoing the fears of some party leaders and activists actually asked Mr. Dole to step down as the nominee and allow a more dynamic leader to take on Bill Clinton. Clearly, something dramatic needed to be done.

For too many voters the Republican Party and its nominee had become type cast as extremist, out of touch with the needs of average Americans and too old and tired to compete.

Responding to these challenges, Dole strategists began to plot a campaign to transform that image. By dropping his decade's old opposition to Ronald Reagan's supply-side economic programme, Dole announced his massive tax cut programme hoping to recapture some of the pro-growth optimism of the Reagan era.

The shocking announcement of Jack Kemp as his vice-presidential choice was another sign of the transformation that was underway. Mr. Kemp, a former congressman and Bush administration cabinet member, had long feuded with Mr. Dole. While they differed on a wide range of issues Mr. Kemp's support for affirmative action and his opposition to punishing illegal aliens not only provoked Mr. Dole, but most of the Republican establishment as well. And when Mr. Kemp endorsed Mr. Dole's rival Steve Forbes in the late days of his failed presidential campaign, Newt Gingrich declared that Mr. Kemp was finished in the Republican Party. (Mr. Dole himself called the incident the "last time we're dealing with the quarterback.")

But what could not be ignored was the fact that Mr. Kemp has a huge media presence and national following. A poll issued after the 1992 Republican Convention showed that Kemp was the overwhelming choice favourite to be the Republican presidential nominee in 1996.

And Mr. Kemp gives Mr. Dole an opportunity to reach out to voting blocks that Mr. Dole could not easily reach alone. Mr. Kemp is popular with some African American, Latino and Jewish groups. Young Republicans inspired by the romance the Reagan image see Mr. Kemp as Mr. Reagan's heir.

Political analysts are asking whether Mr. Dole and Mr. Kemp will be the "perfect match" or the "odd couple" of 1996. But the results of the first week appear to be positive for the Republican pair. Mr. Kemp has even renounced some of his long-held views on

issues where he differed from Mr. Dole, and has publicly pledged to take a back seat to the head of the Republican ticket. And the excitement created by the Kemp announcement and Mr. Kemp's flattering public praise has even given Mr. Dole some needed enthusiasm.

The Kemp announcement marked a turning point in the Dole campaign effort to refashion itself. It created drama and energy that had been sorely lacking up to that point. But it was the Republican Convention itself that completed the process of redefining the Dole campaign.

For more than two years the Republicans have been running a campaign courting the party's far right wing. One by one the many Republicans who ran in 1996 adjusted their positions on key social and political issues in an effort to win the support of the right-wing activists who dominate the party primary process. Riding high on the Republican victories of 1994, Republican candidates painted themselves into an increasingly extremist corner.

Bob Dole won the nomination, but at a price. The delegates and activists who were elected to the Republican National Convention brought with them positions on issues that were viewed as extremist by many Americans. Mr. Dole's efforts to personally intervene in moderating the party's platform were rebuffed by the delegates. And so the Dole strategy for the convention was to ignore the delegates and the platform and create a show that would redefine the image of the party. Mr. Dole, when asked at the convention about the platform replied dismissively that he hadn't read it.

The speaker's list at the convention included African Americans, women, advocates of abortion and immigrants. Ignoring the reality that two-thirds of the delegates were men, 92 per cent white, three quarters were self-declared conservatives and almost 20 per cent were millionaires — speakers from the convention podium attempted to portray the Republican Party as a party of diversity and tolerance.

The entire affair was perfectly scripted to avoid conflict. For example, former General Colin Powell, whose positions on abortion and affirmative action were anathema to the right wing of the party, was brought to the podium amidst thunderous applause that followed the emotional tribute to Ronald Reagan by his wife Nancy. The scattered boos prompted by Mr. Powell's appearance were drowned out by the cheers that carried over from the Reagan tribute.

The use of techniques that work so effectively on television talk shows and advertising, dramatic personal testimonies and personal appeals, interspersed with musical entertainment — worked to create what some media analysts called a four-day long "commercial."

Tension developed between the television networks and the party early in the week. The

networks refused to carry the entire event, limiting their coverage to one or two hours per night. Some speakers and video performances were ignored in favour of television commentators speaking to one another.

Whether due to lack of coverage or lack of interest, television viewership of the convention marked a steep decline over the numbers that watched the 1992 Republican National Convention, and dropped an additional one million viewers each night of the four-night affair.

But while media coverage was down, television commentators largely praised the major speakers at the convention. Evening news programmes and major newspapers widely praised Mr. Powell, Mr. Kemp and the speeches by both the nominee Mr. Dole and his wife, Elizabeth.

The delegates, who were reduced to the role of passive audience came to play an obliging role. Right-wing leader Pat Buchanan and Christian Coalition head Ralph Reed, realising that they had been outflanked by the Dole campaign and sensing the possibility of a new Republican energy, instructed their supporters not to be disruptive. By Thursday night's acceptance speeches the convention floor was packed by delegates and supporters who were brought in to fill the hall to capacity, the convention became a wildly enthusiastic audience for Mr. Kemp and Mr. Dole.

Now the convention is over and Republicans are beginning their campaign to November. They have attempted and to some extent succeeded in infusing their supporters with excitement and energy. By attempting to redefine their image they are also attempting to reach out to independent voters whose support will be critical if they are to close the gap they separate them from victory.

While daily tracking polls still show that the Dole-Kemp ticket lags about 11 per cent behind Clinton-Gore, that does represent an 8 per cent close in the gap that existed before the convention.

That may not be enough, since next week's Democratic National Convention will give some boost back to the president. But the excitement and drama created by adding Mr. Kemp to the ticket and the heavy-handed behaviour of Reform Party founder Ross Perot, has helped the Dole campaign steal attention away from Mr. Perot's independent party effort.

This will be a highly charged and competitive partisan race. Despite Republican efforts to moderate their image and President Clinton's continuing effort to define a centrist "New Democratic" agenda, deep divisions separate the two candidates. Add to that the sharp Republican attacks on the character of the president and first lady and the enormous stakes of winning the White House in November and this 1996 election promises to be one of the most bitter campaigns in decades.

Europe fails to champion human rights

By Marcel Scotto

THE RECENT wave of hunger strikes in Turkish prisons once again pointed up the ambiguity of western Europe's relations with its partners to the east and south when it comes to the human rights issue.

For years now, European experts have published reports denouncing the inhuman treatment meted out to prisoners in Ankara and Istanbul jails. Yet although Turkey joined the Council of Europe a long time ago — only a few months after its foundation in 1949 — those reports have not resulted in any real improvement in prison conditions there.

The case of the Kurds is equally telling. At the height of the Turkish army's clashes with the "rebels," European Union (EU) governments put such pressure on the European Parliament that it ended up ratifying the customs union treaty between the EU and Turkey in December 1995.

Left-wing MEPs initially tried to put up a fight, but a majority of them were eventually won over by the arguments put forward by European governments and Turkey's then prime minister, Tansu Ciller. The most important thing, they argued, was to bar the way to the pro-Islamic Welfare Party by preventing it from winning the general election, and rapid implementation of the customs agreement with Brussels would confirm that Turkey was firmly anchored to the Western world.

Today, Welfare's Necmettin Erbakan is in power thanks to the support of Ciller, who realised that her best chance of safeguarding her political future lay in making an alliance with the pro-Islamic party.

The Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly has made equally serious mistakes. In its almost childish determination to compete with the EU by creating a "Greater Europe," the Strasbourg-based organisation has blindly embarked on a process of enlargement without worrying too much about the respect for human rights — which is after all its main function.

The terms of the European Convention on Human Rights had not been too flagrantly flouted until Russia applied for membership. Here again, the 15 EU countries, who form a bloc within the Council of Europe, lent very heavily on members of its parliamentary assembly. Despite events in Chechnya, an overwhelming majority of members voted in

favour of Russian membership in January 1995.

The day before the vote, Leni Fischer, the German Christian Democrat who is president of the assembly, said: "This is an essentially political decision, for I prefer to have Russia with me rather than on the other side of the ramparts." Today, Fischer regularly issues communiques condemning the Russian army's action against the Chechen population.

Such statements, like most of those emanating from leading officials in the Council of Europe, are prompted more by a need to react to events than by a genuine determination to bring the organisation's influence to bear, however weak it may be.

The Council of Europe has acted in an equally short-sighted manner on the issue of Croatia. Despite the fact that most of its member countries, notably those of the EU, called for Croatia's membership to be postponed in an attempt to force President Franjo Tudjman's regime to respect individual freedoms and, above all, to ensure the success of the Dayton accords, its assembly members came out in favour of admitting Croatia.

For the first time in the council's history, its committee of ministers refused to endorse a vote by the assembly. Croatia will consequently have to show that it has honoured its pledges before being admitted as a member.

Russia, Croatia and other central and east European countries which have joined the Council of Europe since the collapse of the Soviet bloc have made plenty of promises, but only rarely honoured them. These had to do mainly with ratification of the Convention on Human Rights, the abolition of capital punishment, the recognition of minorities and press freedom.

So far, these new regimes have not resolutely committed themselves to the democratisation process. The Ukrainian president, Leonid Kuchma, recently told Le Monde: "We must solve various political, legal and even economic problems before abolishing the death penalty."

Russia and Ukraine have even argued that an ending of capital punishment would not be acceptable to a majority of their citizens.

Another example is Latvia, whose government is reluctant to recognise that its Russian population should be allowed to enjoy certain basic rights. The Slovakian regime is behaving

in similar fashion towards its Hungarian minority. Human rights violations, some serious, some less so, also occur in other former countries of the communist bloc, such as Estonia, Romania, Albania and Bulgaria.

Despite various setbacks, the council continues to pursue its aim of a "Greater Europe." Its Swedish secretary-general, Daniel Tarschys, recently toured the Caucasus in response to requests for membership by Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

At the rate things are going, the organisation may be joined in the near future by new nations whose regimes could hardly be described as models of democracy. And why indeed should Tbilisi, Yerevan or Baku worry about keeping their promises when those countries that have failed to do so do not even get rapped over the knuckles?

Yet the Council of Europe, unlike the EU, has allowed for the possibility of suspending a member country if need be. In 1969, not long after a military junta took power, Greece left the organisation just as it was about to be excluded. And Turkey was asked to withdraw its parliamentary representation from the council following the 1980 military coup.

Since then, the Council of Europe's assembly members have been content to follow the instructions of their various governments, except in the case of Croatia, and to work towards the construction of a "Greater Europe."

The Court of Human Rights has so far received more than 100 complaints from Turks about violations of individual freedoms. However, it takes the court an average of at least five years to make its rulings.

How much longer will the Council of Europe continue to bark up the wrong tree? Should it try to play a diplomatic-cum-strategic role in the shadow of the superpowers, or concentrate on its real vocation, the defence of individual citizens?

Europe waited decades before threatening to "interfere" in the affairs of African countries with long-standing European ties. Will it wait equally long before getting tough with its new European partners? It would be guilty of abdicating its responsibilities if it were to do so.

Le Monde

It
Occurred
To Me...

By Ali Kassay

A question of change

Nostalgia is a most peculiar thing. One simply never knows when it will strike. There you are, one fine morning, doing your bit when there pops up from the recesses of your mind a word, an event, a tune, or whatever it may be. It leaps to the forefront where it has no business to be, and for a long time it sticks there like limpets to rocks taking up grey cells which should rightly be otherwise occupied, before it succumbs to more pressing matters and resumes its place in the dead records file of the mind.

One of the memories that sprang up from my largely misspent youth, shook the dust off itself, crept up on me, and which seems to have haunted my consciousness for some time is the song from the seventies "Money" by the group Abba. But unlike your usual bits of trivia, there is a reason why "Money" stays alive in my memory: There never seems to be any in the possession of shopkeepers in Amman. Whether the item you negotiate is worth a penny or a hundred dinars, the shopkeeper never seems to have the correct change, nor the interest in providing it. He looks with seemingly total disinterest at the banknote which you offer him, and, in total disregard to the time-honoured mercantile tradition that once made the Levant great, he informs you that: "Walla ma fi!"

Useless trying to reason with him that he is supposed to give you a service, and therefore he ought to make an effort to have the correct change, or else he would lose profit. He is simply not interested. Depending on how urgently you need the item under negotiations, it is up to you to go somewhere else to secure change.

But if you think that it is listlessness and apathy that prevent him from having the correct change, you are off the mark by a mile. He is simply hoping that you need for his wares, and the opportunity cost of your time are more important to you than the change which you would receive, and therefore you may let him keep it. And in his determined pursuit of this clever deal that gives him something for nothing, he is perfectly happy to miss out on ten straightforward sales whose cumulative profit would certainly be greater.

The tradesmen who have developed this craft into an art, however, are not shopkeepers, for the client may decide that life is too short to deal with the situation and simply walk away. The ones that make out like bandits in this way are taxi drivers and petrol station attendants. You simply cannot ask the fellow manning the pump to syphon the petrol out of your car, nor can you ask the driver to go in reverse for a distance equivalent to the pennies in dispute, so, with him blocking traffic, and other motorists hooting frantically at you, you let him keep the change.

Which reminds me of another song from the seventies, that by Caz Stevens: "It's not time to make a change." Could he have been thinking of the shopkeepers of Amman when he sang it?

هنا عنه الأصل

Karak curfew relaxed

(Continued from page 1)

and leftist parties are known to have a strong presence.

These residents and other sources who spoke to the Jordan Times said the arrests targeted apparition of political parties, mainly the pro-Iraq Baath party, which the government has accused of sparking the riots.

Karak residents continued to insist that no political parties were behind the riots, with some saying that if political parties did have anything to do with the riots, it was after the disturbances started by "exploiting the sentiments of the people."

Dr. Mahadin said the Public Freedoms Committee at the Lower House of Parliament was scheduled to visit the city to examine the situation of the detainees who, he said, have been locked up in different detention centres in the Kingdom.

Residents said that security forces were still positioned at the entrance of the city checking people coming into it.

"The situation is calm," said Dr. Mahadin. But "life is still far from normal with shops closed and very little activity taking place in the city," according to another city resident.

Dr. Mahadin said the army units imposing the curfew were not banning individuals from moving in the streets but

are maintaining vigil to ensure that no large groups gather in what he described as a precautionary step against any renewal of violence.

Mayor Mahadin said the municipality had finished cleaning the streets of the debris of burnt tyres and rocks but added the municipality does not have the funds to repair the damage that was suffered.

President of the Karak Chamber of Commerce Jamil Garalleh said Sunday that a 10-member committee was formed to collect donations to repair the damage that resulted from the riots.

On Friday, rioters burnt down commercial banks and the Civil Consumers' Society before the riots ended for the day. On Saturday about 2,000 people took to the streets again and battled with the police who used tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse them. A Ministry of Education building was put on fire.

No clashes have been reported in this city of 25,000 residents since police units that were brought in to enforce order were replaced by army units.

No disturbances were also reported in the southern cities of Ma'an and Tafleeh where demonstrations took place on Friday or in Amman where the police on Monday dispersed about 300 protesters.

Child labour today: Facts and figures

Though reliable statistics are rare, available information suggests that the number of working children remains extremely high. No region of the world today is entirely free of child labour.

ALTHOUGH THE international recommended minimum age for work is 15 years (ILO Convention No. 138) and the number of child workers under the age of 10 is far from negligible, almost all the data available on child labour concerns the 10-to-14 age group. Combining various official sources, the ILO estimates that more than 73 million children in that age group alone were economically active in 1995, representing 13.2 per cent of all 10-to-14 year olds around the world.

The greatest numbers were found in Asia — 44.6 million (13 per cent) — followed by Africa — 23.6 million (by far the highest rate at 26.3 per cent) — and Latin America — 5.1 million (9.8 per cent).

Estimates by country showed the following rates of economic activity among children 10-to-14: Bangladesh (30.1 per cent), China (11.6), India (14.4), Pakistan (17.7), Turkey (24), Côte d'Ivoire (20.5), Egypt (11.2), Kenya (41.3), Nigeria (25.8), Senegal (31.4), Argentina (4.5), Brazil (16.1), Mexico (6.7), Italy (0.4), Portugal (1.8).

"But this is only part of the picture," says Assefa Bekele, departmental Director and child labour specialist at the ILO. "No reliable figures on workers under 10 are available though their numbers, we know, are significant. The same is true of children between 14 and 15 on whom few reports exist. If all of these could be counted and if proper account were taken of the domestic work performed full-time by girls, the total number of child workers around the world today might well be in the hundreds of millions."

Though mostly prevalent in the developing regions, child labour also exists in richer industrialised countries. "In southern Europe, there have always been relatively large numbers of children working for pay, in particular in seasonal activities, street trades, small workshops or in a home setting," notes an ILO report prepared for a meeting to be held in conjunction with this year's session of the International Labour Conference (4-20 June 1996).

In central and eastern Europe, the difficulties connected with the transition from a centrally planned to a market economy has led to a substantial increase in child labour. The ILO report points out that "the same is true of the United States, where the growth of the service sector, the rapid increase in the supply of part-time jobs and the search for a more flexible workforce have contributed to the expansion of the child labour market."

Traditionally, the proportion of working children has

been much higher in rural than urban areas — nine out of ten are engaged in agricultural or related activities, in the towns and cities of developing countries, where child labour has increased steadily as a result of the rapid urbanisation of recent years, working children are found mainly in trade and services, and to a lesser extent in the manufacturing sector.

Experimental statistical surveys carried out by the ILO in Ghana, India, Indonesia and Senegal have shown that the economic activity of over three quarters of children between the ages of 5 and 14 takes place in a family enterprise setting. With the exception of Latin America where their numbers appear to be substantial, "children employed as wage-earners usually account for a relatively small percentage of total child labour," says the report.

"At the international level," notes the report, "attention focuses mainly on children employed in Third World countries and predominantly export industries, such as textiles, clothing, carpets and footwear. In fact, though, children producing for export are substantially fewer than the employed in branches of activity geared essentially to meeting domestic consumption needs."

Available statistics suggest that most boys and girls work "should be the better part of the day," that the number of working hours is often underestimated by statistics surveys, and they usually do not take into account full-time housework performed by many children, the vast majority of whom are girls, in order to enable their parents to go to work."

Girls, moreover, tend to work longer hours on average, than do boys. This is especially true for many girls employed as domestic workers, a type of employment in which hours of work are typically extremely long. This is also a case of girls employed in other types of jobs who, in addition to their professional activity, must help with the housework in their parents' home."

One of the factors affecting the supply of child labour is the high cost in real terms of obtaining an education. Many children work to cover the cost of school expenses. "At many schools serving the poor are of such abysmal quality, or chances of upward mobility for graduates are so slim, that the expected return is not equal to the sacrifice made."

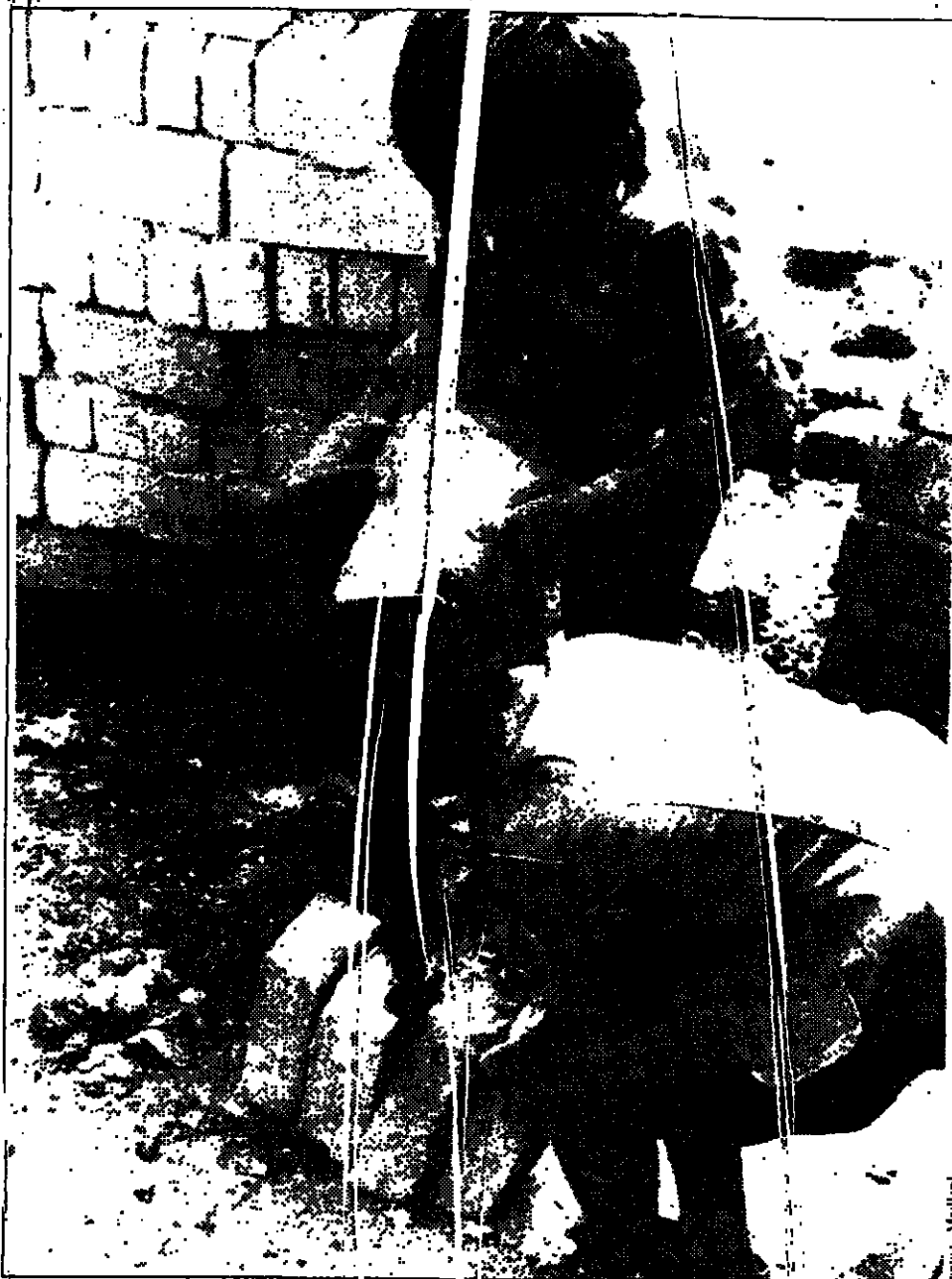
While it is true that many children drop out of school because they have to work, it is equally true that many become so discouraged by the handling of the 1989 incidents and the past week's events.

"This is the first major crisis within the framework of a democratic experience," Mr. Izzedine said. "It is the first time since martial law was lifted and political parties were introduced. So it has to be handled as both a security and political problem and not only as a security issue as was the case in 1989."

Both Mrs. Sharaf and Mr. Izzedine believe that the national dialogue should be started very soon if only because of the parliamentary deadline in October when the Lower and Upper Houses will convene in their last regular session.

"It has to be a national dialogue led by the Palace," Mr. Izzedine told the Jordan Times. "The Palace is the most permanent, most respected and strongest political institution in Jordan," he said.

Mr. Izzedine also underlined the importance of recognising the difference between



Though mostly prevalent in the developing regions, child labour also exists in richer industrialised countries (ILO photo)

school that they prefer to work."

Refuting the "nimble fingers" argument

In manufacturing industries, children are most likely to be employed, says the report, "when their labour is less expensive or less troublesome than that of adults, when other labour is scarce, and when they are considered irreplaceable by reason of their size or perceived dexterity."

The ILO investigated this latter question in 1992 as it applied in the handwoven carpet and glass bracelet (bangles) industries in India, subsequently expanding its studies to include the diamond polishing, gem polishing, slate, limestone and mosaic chip quarrying industries.

The findings of these studies, says the ILO, "clearly refute the 'nimble fingers' argument — the claim that only children can do certain jobs, or can do them better than adults." Very often, the studies found, "the jobs that only children perform consist of menial unskilled work that adults could do at least as quickly."

"Some of the best carpets, those having the greatest density of small knots, are woven by adults," states the report. "If child dexterity is not uniquely necessary to knot the finest carpets, it is difficult to imagine other trades for which the 'nimble fingers' argument could be valid."

Many working children face significant threats to their health and safety. The

majority are involved in farming and are routinely exposed to harsh climate, sharpened tools, heavy loads as well as, increasingly, as to toxic chemicals and motorised equipment.

Others, particularly girls working in domestic service, are exposed to physical, sexual and verbal abuse, which can have devastating consequences on their health.

"Prostitution is another type of activity in which children, especially girls, are increasingly found," says the ILO report. "The AIDS epidemic is a contributing factor to this trend, as adults see the use of children for sex as a means of preventing infection. The laissez-faire attitude of the authorities and international tourism is also largely responsible for the current situation."

Another "extremely serious problem," says the report, is child slavery.

"Available information points to the existence of traditional forms of child slavery in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Instances have also been found in two Latin American countries." Contemporary forms of child slavery, however, appear to be evolving "either by a link being established between an adult's work contract and the availability of a child or by the exchange of a child for a sum of money that is often described as an advance on wages."

"A large number of child slaves" who, according to

reports cited in the ILO report, may number in the tens of millions, "are to be found in agriculture, domestic help, the sex industry, the carpet and textile industries, quarrying and brick making."

"Child slavery, predominantly found in the poorest of the world, is a form of slavery such as debt bondage, when the motivation is the debt incurred by a family to meet a social or religious obligation or simply to acquire the means of survival," says the report, adding that wars are also conducive to child slavery.

"A different approach is needed for each of these different forms of child slavery," warns the ILO. "In the first instance, any external, and particularly international, intervention is doomed to failure if it is not accompanied by a process of social transformation implemented by the communities concerned. In the second case, the enslavement of civil populations in the context of an armed conflict is a crime against humanity," which the international community has an obligation to stop and to punish.

There is a growing body of opinion "that national and international efforts need to be more sharply focused on the most abusive and hazardous forms of child labour, granting them first concern and priority," underlines the report.

"Perhaps the most telling social argument against child labour is that its effects are highly discrimi-

Estimated percentages of economically active children between 10 and 14 years of age, 1995* (Selected countries and territories)

Africa	
Algeria	1.63
Burkina Faso	51.05
Burundi	48.97
Cameroun	25.25
Côte d'Ivoire	20.46
Egypt	11.23
Ethiopia	42.30
Ghana	13.27
Kenya	41.27
Mali	54.53
Morocco	5.61
Niger	45.17
Nigeria	25.75
Senegal	31.36
South Africa	0.00
Tunisia	0.00
Uganda	45.31
Zambia	16.27
Zimbabwe	29.44
Asia	
Bangladesh	30.12
Bhutan	55.10
China	11.55
East Timor	45.39
Hong Kong	0.00
India	14.37
Indonesia	9.55
Iran	4.71
Iraq	2.95
Japan	0.00
Jordan	0.68
Malaysia	3.16
Nepal	45.18
Pakistan	17.67
Philippines	8.04
Saudi Arabia	0.00
Syria Arab Rep.	5.78
Turkey	24.00
Thailand	16.22
Vietnam	9.12
Yemen	20.15
Europe	
Albania	1.11
Hungary	0.17
Italy	0.38
Portugal	1.76
Romania	0.17
Latin America	
Argentina	4.53
Bolivia	14.36
Brazil	16.09
Chile	0.00
Colombia	6.62
Costa Rica	5.48
Cuba	0.00
Dominican Rep.	16.06
Guatemala	16.22
Haiti	25.30
Mexico	6.73
Nicaragua	14.05
Paraguay	7.87
Peru	2.48
Uruguay	2.08
Venezuela	0.95
Oceania	
Papua New Guinea	19.31
Solomon Islands	28.89
Polynesia	3.67

* Source: Economically active population. Estimates and projections, 1950-2010. Fourth edition (unpublished data available from the ILO Bureau of Statistics), International Labour Office, Geneva.

institutionalising it, even if it is done gradually," he maintained.

"Democracy's strength and durability will act as a shock absorber at times like the one which we just witnessed. ... But I don't think that after what has happened the different parties will be able to deal with this government in good will and comfortably," Mr. Masri said.

Mr. Izzedine also stressed the need to press ahead with democracy, despite what happened, maintaining that the latest riots were caused not only by the decision to raise the prices of bread.

"There has been an accumulation of social problems, mainly poverty and unemployment, that needs to be addressed through a national dialogue. This would blaze the trail for our post-peace era and the end of the 20th century," Mr. Izzedine said.

Ties with Iraq unaffected

(Continued from page 1)

followed by reports on Jordan's involvement in attempts to topple the Iraqi regime, and most recently, Jordan's implication of pro-Iraq involvement in the bread riots might prompt the Saddam Hussein regime to forego Jordan as a major trade partner.

This and other analysts cited as evidence Iraq's swift reply to Jordanian accusations through state-owned media channels; Iraq Monday denied charges of involvement in the riots accusing the Jordanian government of being solely responsible for the unrest.

"The Jordanian government signed a peace treaty with the Zionist enemy against the will of the people ... the Jordanian government interfered in the internal affairs of Iraq against the will of the Jordanian people ... sought to appease the Gulf states and the U.S. and yielded to conditions of the World Bank against the will of the people ... the Iraqi 'Um Al Ma'arek' radio station said.

Information Minister Marwan Muasher Monday said that the authorities have arrested a number of leaders of the Iraqi Ba'ath Party after gathering evidence that they were responsible for inciting violence in the so-called bread riots.

"These people were working against their country and themselves ... what they did

was unjustifiable. It is harmful for this country's security, stability and reputation as well as being counterproductive in terms of encouraging investment in the Kingdom," said Mr. Abul Ragheb, who reiterated the government's resolve to go ahead with the decision of lifting wheat subsidies in compliance with the International Monetary Fund reform programme, which he described as a move that "will put us on the road to economic independence, at a time when the world is no longer a place of free trade."

Meanwhile, other officials maintained that, for more reasons than one, "it is too early to tell" whether Jordanian-Iraqi trade ties will be affected. One such reason, they say, is whether investigations will actually reveal a direct Iraqi involvement in fomenting the unrest; and the other is whether Baghdad will indeed adopt a "tit-for-tat" approach in reacting to the accusations by suspending trade exchange with Jordan.

In such case an eventuality, an official said, Jordan's oil needs might have to be supplied by Saudi Arabia, which has expressed its readiness to provide Jordan with petroleum if asked. But, as this official pointed out, "it (the oil) will definitely be at a higher cost."

4 tabloid journalists arrested

(Continued from page 1)

week. At least 40 members of two leftist groups are among the nearly 150 people detained following the riots.

Security sources said Tuesday some of the detainees could be released on bail pending the filing of formal charges or released unconditionally after questioning.

"We expect the process of releases to start soon," said one source. "Investigations are focusing directly on those who attacked public and private property and on those who instigated the riots," added the source.

The Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) said meanwhile the number of its members in detention had risen to 16.

Democratic framework will govern process

(Continued from page 1)

want the situation to return normal completely before we do it."

Official sources had told the Jordan Times that in ordering the initiation of a re-evaluation process the King would be "keen to know where we went right or wrong in the democratisation period of the past seven years."

"From then on, the positive aspects will be emphasised at the expense of the negative practices, with the ultimate aim being progress on the democratic front, stability and working harder towards achieving consensus politics," one source said.

When asked about what form the proposed dialogue and re-evaluation process would take, Dr. Muasher said

that the government did not have "detailed thoughts" about it at this time.

"What we do know is that the form is not as important as what the substance will be," he added. "As long as there is the will to do it, it will be done."

Politicians are for proposal Jordanian politicians generally agree that the government needs to open this kind of dialogue with the Parliament and the political parties, and cite the need for the debate to be all-encompassing and balanced. Not all of them agree, however, on who the parties to the dialogue should be.

"The government has to open a dialogue with the Parliament and political parties," Senator Laila Sharaf told the Jordan Times in an interview yesterday. "But that dialogue

has to be serious, balanced and equitable" in order to succeed, Mrs. Sharaf, a former minister of information, added.

A national re-evaluation process, which has to serve as a framework for the new government-Parliament dialogue, according to Mrs. Sharaf and other politicians, should aim to bridge the gap between the state institutions and those of civil society.

"It may be a re-evaluation process along the same guidelines that drew up the National Charter (in 1990 and 1991) but it need not necessarily take place in the same format," Mrs. Sharaf said.

"We need to think up a format for a debate over our vision for a civil society borne out of our consensus on three elements, which are: internal

development, relations with the Arab states and ties with our non-Arab neighbours," Mrs. Sharaf said. "From there on we will automatically have an international vision as well."

Former Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs and Information Ibrahim Izzedine, who fully supports the idea of a national re-evaluation process, said that the Crown has to assume the main task in bringing together the government and Parliament and bridging the gap between them.

"It has to be a national dialogue led by the Palace," Mr. Izzedine told the Jordan Times. "The Palace is the most permanent, most respected and strongest political institution in Jordan," he said.

Mr. Izzedine also underlined the importance of recognising the difference between

the handling of the 1989 incidents and the past week's events.

"This is the first major crisis within the framework of a democratic experience," Mr. Izzedine said. "It is the first time since martial law was lifted and political parties were introduced. So it has to be handled as both a security and political problem and not only as a security issue as was the case in 1989."

Both Mrs. Sharaf and Mr. Izzedine believe that the national dialogue should be started very soon if only because of the parliamentary deadline in October when the Lower and Upper Houses will convene in their last regular session.

"It is obvious that Prime Minister Abdul Karim Khatib has the support of his majesty," Mrs. Sharaf said. What Mr. Khatib has to do now is to patch up relations

with the people and the institutions following the riots.

Whether Parliament will be ready to cooperate with the prime minister when the ordinary session convenes depends on how successful he is in rebuilding the government's bridges "with the various blocs in the Lower House," she added.

Mr. Izzedine believes that "what Mr. Khatib needs to do now is to take steps to alleviate the problems of the people and not only show concern in words."

"The message should be that the government is truly concerned and is ready to take real and concrete steps," Mr. Izzedine said, adding that this would mean "accepting part of their agenda when holding dialogue with sanctioned and legitimate political bodies in the country."

Deputy and former Prime Minister Taher Masri agrees

that there should be a re-evaluation of the last seven-year period's experience, but he insists that it cannot be done while the government of Mr. Khatib remains in office.

"The idea is excellent" said Mr. Masri, who openly opposed the decision to raise the prices of bread and animal feed within the formula devised by the government, adding that an open dialogue would prepare the ground "for a process of learning from the mistakes which have taken place since the democratisation process began."

"What is important in times of crisis such as these, however, is to protect the regime, the King, law and order and the reputation of the country. We are talking about protecting what is really important," Mr. Masri said. "The open dialogue should primarily deal with ways to address democracy properly and work on

institutionalising it, even if it is done gradually," he maintained.

"Democracy's strength and durability will act as a shock absorber at times like the one which we just witnessed. ... But I don't think that after what has happened the different parties will be able to deal with this government in good will and comfortably," Mr. Masri said.

Mr. Izzedine also stressed the need to press ahead with democracy, despite what happened, maintaining that the latest riots were caused not only by the decision to raise the prices of bread.

"There has been an accumulation of social problems, mainly poverty and unemployment, that needs to be addressed through a national dialogue. This would blaze the trail for our post-peace era and the end of the 20th century," Mr. Izzedine said.

Palestinians ban Israeli imports

TEL AVIV (R) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) banned the import of Israeli goods into self-ruled Gaza Monday to protest against restrictions on Gaza exports to the Jewish state, an official said.

Nabil Tamous, in charge of the Palestinian side of the Karni checkpoint, said he had indefinitely barred Israeli goods from entering Gaza at the crossing point, which handles most of the commercial goods traffic between Israel and Gaza.

"We decided to close it because of Israeli provocations," Mr. Tamous told Reuters.

He said that Israel was blocking the export of competitive Gaza goods such as flagstones and canned goods to Israel and the West Bank in breach of Israeli-PLO trade agreements.

"We have 28 flagstone factories which provide jobs for 1,000 Palestinians."

It is very important for us to export these materials," Mr. Tamous said. "This Israeli behaviour has led to the closure of two-thirds of the 28 plants."

Israeli officials said Gaza exports were held up for security reasons.

Israel Radio quoted Avi Gambash, Gaza coordinator of Israel's civil administration, as saying the goods were a security risk because they could be used to hide weapons and explosives.

Mr. Tamous charged that Israeli security justifications were a cover for protecting Israeli factories from lower-cost competition. He said Israel had violated a trade accord signed two weeks ago by preventing the export of flagstones from Gaza.

"It (Karni) is going to be shut and will not be opened until an agreement is reached," Mr. Tamous said.

Setback for tourism seen with Netanyahu at helm

Following is an article published in the fifth issue of the Travel Trade Gazette. The article, which appears in the August edition, reflects the prevailing situation of the tourism industry in the Middle East region and shows that the Israeli prime minister has a lot to contribute to the prosperity of the tourism industry.

THE ANTI-CIPATED boom in tourism stemming from a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement looks destined to be postponed in the immediate future following the change of political power in Israel. Instead, countries such as Jordan and Egypt will have to rely more heavily on their own individual resources and attractions, while Lebanon and Syria's

inbound travel industry will continue to suffer the adverse effects of 'no war, no peace' stagnation.

The election of Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's Prime Minister and his hardline approach to the peace process has caused considerable consternation in the region and raised fears in may collapse completely.

Understandably, the major talking points have centred on the political consequences with the implications for the tourism industry rarely a mention in the international media.

The first direct effect of the Israeli government change at the end of May came with the sudden postponement of the much-publicised meeting of the Middle East Mediterranean Travel & Tourism Association (MEMTTA) that was scheduled to start in Tunis in early June.

Some of the member countries had requested the adjournment in order

to reassess the normalisation of ties with Israel. It was not revealed which members made the request, but the meeting looked guaranteed to attract a great deal of attention since it would have been the first high-level gathering between Israel and the Arab countries following Mr. Netanyahu's election.

The association's founding members are Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, the Palestinian Authority, Israel, Cyprus and Turkey. MEMTTA was set up after the Middle East and North African summit meetings held in 1994 and 1995 under U.N. sponsorship to support the region's peace process.

Its declared aim is to facilitate regional cooperation in travel and tourism and the association's task is regarded as an essential ingredient of the overall peace operation.

The meeting is now tentatively scheduled for September, but a final decision seems certain to depend on how

relations between the Arab states and Israel progress.

The onus for fostering improvement is placed firmly on Israel which has "moved the goal posts" on terms for the original deal and declared its security as the issue taking precedence over all other matters.

Political observers say reaching an agreement which satisfies that security goal but also manages to see a return of occupied Arab territories — the key demand — could prove a better long-term deal.

They point to the dangers of anything which falls short of a complete agreement being constantly ticking time-bomb for the entire region, and while the travel industry could see short-term benefits, not many would want to risk much in the way of investment.

While few may doubt the wisdom of that analysis, it does not address the immediate problem of how to cope with threatened reductions in forecast

tourism levels. It looks unlikely that any of the countries will suffer very seriously since peace was regarded as providing a boost to figures, with the various countries already working on their individual programmes.

Travel experts agree that politics play a much smaller role in a tourist's decision when selecting a destination than acts of violence.

So while combined holidays involving Israel, Jordan and Egypt may suffer, individually these countries could continue to see their inbound statistics improving.

Not so Lebanon and Syria. These have yet to make peace with Israel and it is the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and Syria's Golan Heights which top their agenda for any peace talks. That still leaves the even more difficult issue of Israel's relations with the Palestinians.

Cyprus tourism is in trouble

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus' finance minister denied the economy was facing a crisis but admitted there were problems in the tourism and manufacturing sectors on the eastern Mediterranean island.

Christodoulos Christodoulou said decreasing productivity and competitiveness in manufacturing have been noted while tourism "is showing signs of fatigue." "Our competitors have reduced their costs and upgraded their quality. In our case there is a continuous increase in costs without upgrading quality or improving infrastructure," he said.

Mr. Christodoulou added:

"There is no crisis, or cloud hanging over the economy. Official figures show bookings for the summer are down by around one per cent on the 2.1 million who visited Cyprus last year. Hoteliers say the drop is higher, the spending power of tourists visiting less, and admit that Cyprus is between 15 and 20 per cent costlier than rival destinations. Tourism brings in an estimated 810 million Cyprus pounds (\$1.7 billion) annually, 21 per cent of the island's gross domestic product. Central bank of Cyprus governor Afentis Afentou agreed that tourism was in difficulty. A

current account deficit of 88 million pounds in 1995, from a surplus of 32 million in 1994 was partly due to defence spending, said Mr. Afentou. It is forecast to be 135 million in the rest of this year.

But he reiterated his concerns that a major reason for the worsening deficit was consumer spending.

"Unfortunately, Cypriots are a little bit spoiled," he said. Last month, the central bank increased liquidity limits for commercial banks to 13 per cent from 10 per cent, injecting an additional 90 to 100 million pounds into the local loan market.

High oil prices keep gold demand high in Gulf

DUBAI (AFP) — Gold consumption in two major Gulf oil producers has remained high due to economic growth caused by improved crude prices, the World Gold Council (WGC) said.

Gold demand in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) increased by around one per cent to 66.3 tonnes in the second quarter of 1996 from nearly 65.5 tonnes in the same period of 1995, WGC said in a statement from its regional headquarters in the UAE port of Dubai.

"In Saudi Arabia, the

healthy price situation continues to ease budget constraints and has contributed to raising economic growth prospects," said Rolf Thuebell, WGC regional chief executive for the Middle East and India.

"In the UAE, retailers are replenishing stocks following strong sales during the promotion in Dubai in the first half of 1996. It said the surge is caused by an

increase in domestic demand and consumption in India and Pakistan, the main export market for the emirate.

In India, the largest gold consumer in the world, demand for the yellow metal soared by 17 per cent to 136.7 tonnes in the second quarter of 1996 from 116.2 tonnes in the second

quarter of 1995, the report showed.

"This is a record high for any quarter for the last three years and highlights the continuing increase in gold consumption in India," it said. The Middle East and India region as a whole consumed 226 tonnes of gold in the second quarter of 1996.

Forte Grand gets new food & beverage manager

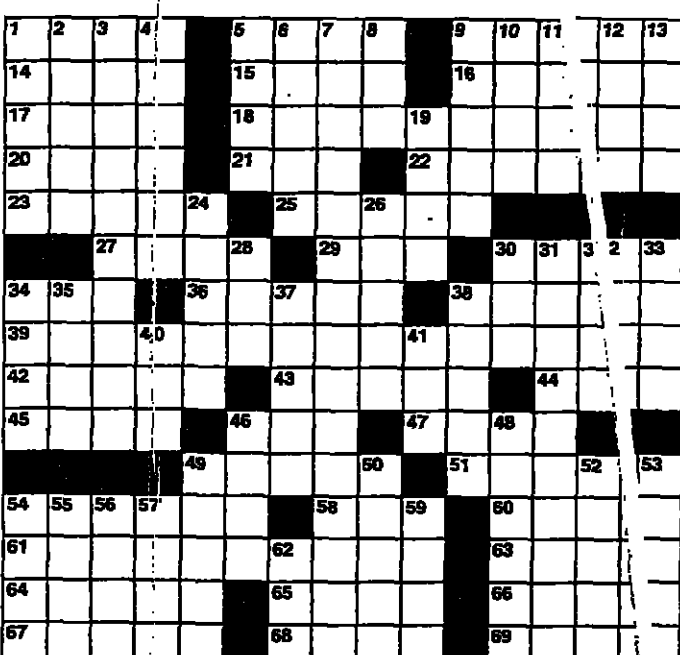
Married with two children, Christian Jolissaint has joined Forte Grand Amman as food & beverage manager. Mr. Jolissaint comes from a background of 24 years within the food industry, where during that

period his experience had covered the five continents USA, Middle East, Asia, Europe, Africa. He spent 13 years with Meridien chain as food & beverage manager in Meridien Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

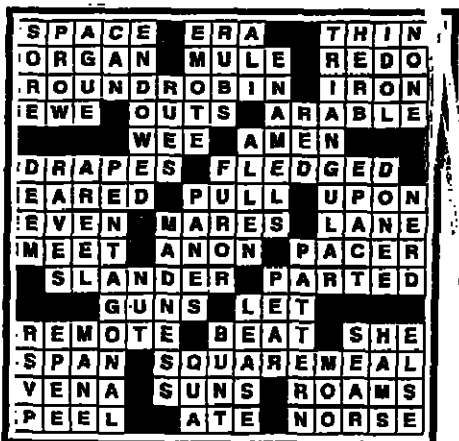


THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

- ACROSS
1 Move about
5 "Dear..."
(advice column)
9 Long-legged bird
14 Phoenician city
15 Mrs. Copperfield
16 Lofly nest
17 Saga
18 In a lively fashion
20 Ancient Persian
21 Defamatory charges
22 Makes over
23 Sows
25 Waldorf or Caesar
27 — trap for
29 Toss
30 Electrical units
34 List extender
36 Animated
38 — barrel (at a disadvantage)
39 Joan Crawford-Franchot Tone film
42 Prongs
43 Legal claims
44 Cereal grain
45 Before: pref.
46 Dolores — Rio
47 Loyalist
49 Peons
51 Staircase support
54 Suppose
58 Mimic
60 — monster
61 City
63 First garden
64 Go-between
65 Fruit decay
66 Not a soul
67 Palomino
68 Capri, e.g.
69 "— the night before..."



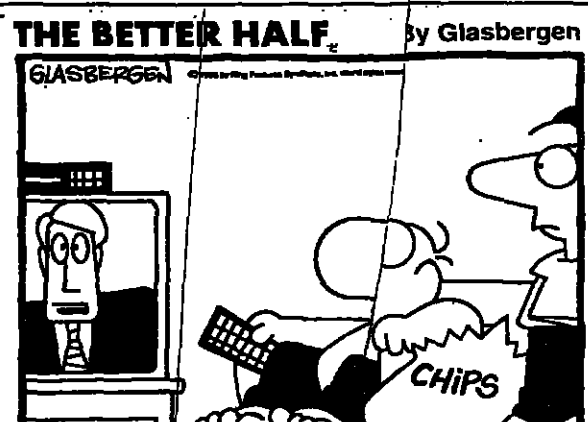
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- DOWN
1 Stalks
2 Melville opus
3 Lustrous
4 Ebb
5 "Bade"
6 Premium

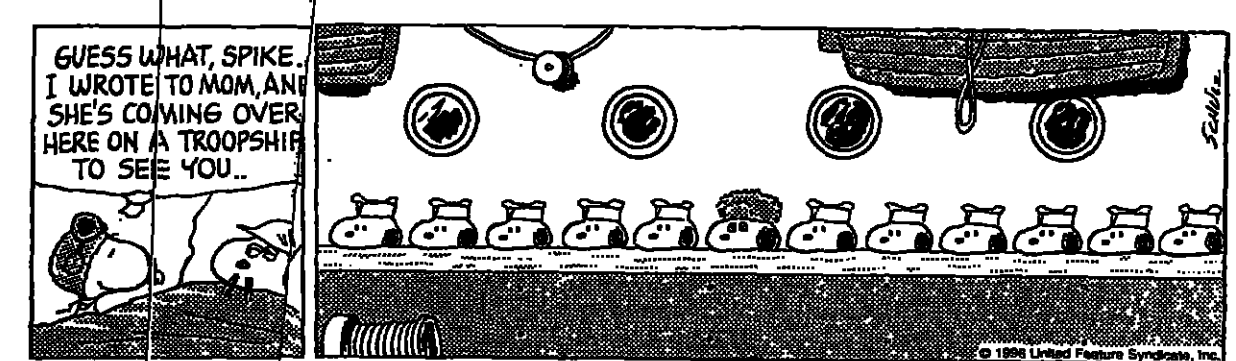
- 7 Yosemite cascade
8 Sweet potato
9 Surfeited
10 — off (rate)
11 Church calendar
12 Irritate
13 FL feature
19 Certain Asian
24 Has the lead
25 Lerner's partner
28 — Baba
31 Franz Lehár operetta (with "The")
32 Quarry
33 Marquis de —
34 Ms. Kett
35 Slender
37 Lazy person
38 Actor Welles
40 Busy insect
41 Can. prov.
46 Profound

- 48 Ruler
49 Chastised, old style
50 Sales pitch
52 Ms. Verdugo of TV
53 Country paths
54 Eastern nurse
55 Kind of lily
56 Ham or lob end
57 Footed vases
59 Titled Italian family
62 Oriental sash

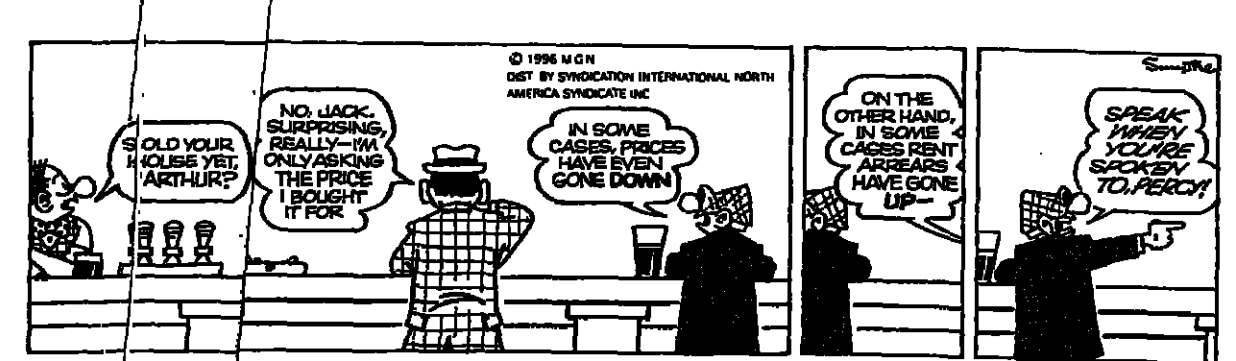


"On the news they say terrorism is our nation's worst problem. All the other channels say flabby abs are the worst problem."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR
WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 21, 1996
By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get that plan working early today which can gain you the personal ambitions which mean so much to you in the morning. Later this evening will be good for you to seek out close friends and gain their business advice.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Be more supportive of prominent people today and you can gain their support on those difficult business decisions which you have been making. Take time to study some subject which is advanced later this evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Try new angles with some old activity today and you can be active and highly inspired from the results. The evening requires rest so get to bed early and thereby you will be able to handle any difficult situation ahead.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make your life with your mate more exciting today and remake the relationship in the same condition as when you were first romantically involved with him or her. Later this evening you can spend some time with loved ones.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you get involved in some modern civic affair today you can make greater progress in the days ahead towards having much prestige. Relax tonight after a busy day with your loved ones and you will feel reenergized.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Handle your activities wisely today and show others that you are intelligent and you can handle any difficult situation with finesse and expertise. Come to understand a fellow associate and you will gain greater accord with him or her.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Choose the type of recreation today which appeals the most to you and enjoy doing it. Later this evening please others you come in contact with and you will understand what is their thinking and how you can react.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go ahead with the plans you have made the days before to handle home conditions and you can establish great rapport with those who live under your roof. Tonight you can relax with your loved ones and let your mind wander.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Go to the right modern places today where you can find information to gain your ambitions easily. Later tonight will be easy for you to complete some new project if you consult with a bigwig and use that advice.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Confer with a financial expert early in the day today and you can gain the prestige which comes with dealing with any budgetary crisis in an intelligent manner. Follow the advice given and you can tighten your budget.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get busy and get your ideas working nicely today with the assistance of some knowledgeable person. Discussions with others can be helpful to you in gaining the prestige which is important to your financial and professional life.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Dig into the right sources today for any information you may need and get it with relative ease. Show that you have tremendous ability to handle any difficult situation by completion of some task which seems demanding to others. Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

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Business & Finance

Double or nothing on ABI shares — bankers

AMMAN — The shares of the Amman Bank for Investment (ABI) are still being traded on the Amman Financial Market. With a price of 250 fils per share, investors see the shares as hot property that will bring them a fortune when the bank is taken over by the Arab Bank Group and turned into an Islamic bank.

It is almost certain that the Arab Bank, Jordan's largest bank, will be setting up an Islamic bank but it is not yet clear how the mechanism will be worked out and how the ABI case will be handled.

Discussions taking place at the Central Bank over the issues are kept under absolute secrecy.

According to reliable

Jordan Times

sources, the Central Bank is the key player by trying to salvage the troubled ABI on the one hand and awarding the Arab Bank with a licence.

As such, the monetary authority is working out the link and the Arab Bank will not be liable to any demands from ABI shareholders and the only obligation that it will honour will be to guarantee the deposits held at ABI by the public, the Jordan Times has learnt.

By adopting this procedure, the sources said, the Central Bank is being careful not to cause a panic in the market.

In this context the Central Bank could not but keep ABI shares trading at the stock exchange because

suspension of trade could spark unnecessary speculation and public fear about the ABI fate.

The issue, however, is not as smooth as it seems because over the past few months investors have been lured by the falling ABI share prices and now, at 250 fils per share, thousands of ABI shares are being traded every day.

Obviously, people are buying the shares not for what remains of ABI but on the strength of the "rescue," which, according to the informed sources, will only be a bridge to safeguard public confidence and nothing more.

If the scenario is true, then investors — who undoubtedly are small savers building high hopes of becoming shareholders

The secrecy shrouding the whole matter will be unveiled next week as negotiations between the Central Bank and the Arab Bank are almost over, the Jordan Times was told.

As far as the ABI shareholders are concerned, an announcement in the Arabic dailies has requested them to attend a general meeting today (Wednesday) at 6 p.m. at the Nabil Mashini Theatre in Abdali to discuss a united stand and their interests which many observers see as being minimal or having evaporated altogether.

Bank of China to compensate for slow service

BEIJING (R) — The state-owned Bank of China has set limits on the time it takes to serve customers at its Beijing outlets and will compensate people for every extra minute they are kept waiting, a bank official has said. The bank would pay customers one yuan (\$0.12) for every one minute delay beyond the time limits, the official said. The bank started timing services in all its 193 outlets in Beijing from Monday, he said. The stop-watch was set at two minutes for each current account deposit or withdrawal, six minutes for each foreign currency transaction and three minutes for trading in state treasury bonds, he said.

EU steel industry is set to shed 15,000 jobs this year

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The steel industry in the 15 countries of the European Union (EU) is likely to shed 15,060 jobs this year, the EU commission has said.

Last year the number of people employed in the industry fell by a net amount of 13,241 or by 5.6 per cent of the total.

Annual forecasts from the EU said that this year the number of steel workers employed in Luxembourg would fall by 10.4 per cent, in Germany by 8.3 per cent, Portugal 7.1 per cent, Italy 6.8 per cent and Spain 5.7 per cent.

A less severe contraction was forecast for four other EU countries: 3.1 per cent in the Netherlands, 1.7 per cent in France and in Belgium and 0.5 per cent in Britain.

Increases of productivity and new technology would result in more reductions in the next few years, the commission said.

But cuts would be less severe than in previous years, and notably the reduction of 26,132 in 1994 because restructuring of the European industry, launched in 1992, would come to an end, except in the private steel industry in Italy.

JORDAN TIMES
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AMERICAN FINANCIAL MARKSHEET											
NOTED BANK CREDIT 1960S											
- TELEPHONE: 60712 / 60715											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 20/08/1996											
DATE	12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / R	DIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALUE	OVER	CLOSE	CHANGE	
HIGH	LOW				YEARS	SHARES		PRICE	PRICE		
250.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	12.1	1.58	18	600	132140	219.50	221.00	2.00+	
1.300	1.300	1.800 OF CORDON	13.3	2.53	3	1	13320	3.05	3.05	-	
5.750	4.250	THE MOUNTAIN INC.	12.3	3.00	4	17392	78331	4.98	4.60	.02+	
3.040	2.600	JUN. KUNAT BANK	16.7	0.00	9	7178	18377	2.70	2.77	.02+	
1.340	.880	JOR. GULF BANK	7.4	1.78	1	850	88	.88	.80	.01+	
4.180	3.300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	16.8	0.00	18	8250	18394	3.52	3.80	.02+	
1.460	1.700	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	6.0	0.00	1	500	870	1.78	1.74	.01-	
6.130	3.000	JOR. INT. BANK	14.2	0.00	2	240	300	3.00	3.00	-	
1.090	.240	UNION BANK INV.	9	0.00	19	20100	9029	.28	.25	-	
1.680	1.600	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	3	86	101	1.06	1.06	.01-	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 173.03 SCOR: +0.57 76 56697 253445											
2.870	2.500	UNITED INSURANCE	4.32	1	200	556	2.76	2.79	.03+		
4.410	4.000	JENSEN'S INSUR.	11.8	4.99	1	200	882	4.25	4.26	.01+	
2.910	2.150	JOR. PRUDEN. INSUR.	6.4	9.22	1	800	1088	2.19	2.17	.02-	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 120.06 SCOR: -0.08 3 900 2493											
1.900	1.480	JOR. ELECTRIC POW.	10.6	7.88	29	12318	20242	1.53	1.52	.02+	
6.090	8.890	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	16.3	0.00	2	80	428	4.00	4.80	-	
2.240	1.050	MATL. PORTFOLIO	9.8	3.23	3	14000	16814	1.13	1.16	.02+	
1.380	.960	SARNA EDUCATION	9.8	0.00	3	2150	4172	1.02	1.01	.01-	
2.430	1.700	UNITED CO.	9.8	5.35	8	2000	3740	1.87	1.87	-	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 111.16 SCOR: +0.12 74 32350 43395											
1.260	1.150	ATLANTICORP	0	0.00	1	500	585	1.13	1.11	.02-	
2.770	3.060	JOR. COMMER. PAC.	18.6	3.07	11	4297	13980	3.28	3.28	-	
3.250	3.720	JOR. PROSPERITY MILES	29.6	0.00	1	300	872	3.80	2.75	.05-	
1.550	2.720	JOR. PETROL. NETWORK	7.3	8.89	23	7000	7100	9.04	9.21	.13+	
8.100	6.420	JOR. MORTGAGE MILLS	3.0	3.87	4	6890	46330	6.96	7.00	.04+	
5.190	3.120	ARAB PHARM. INDUS.	15.8	8.86	1	200	720	3.64	3.60	.04-	
1.560	1.560	JOR. ALUMIN. IND.	7.2	0.24	1	1000	14780	5.95	5.90	.05-	
3.880	1.710	JOR. PIPES MANUF.	9.6	0.90	2	1088	1890	1.78	1.76	.01+	
3.310	2.400	GENERAL MINTING	7.4	10.18	6	1800	8409	2.83	2.80	.04-	
4.250	4.250	JOR. ALUMIN. IND. INV.	12.3	0.44	2	181	1687	4.54	5.50	.08+	
5.800	3.130	ARAB ALUMIN. IND.	8.3	8.96	3	1150	3883	3.88	3.88	-	
7.440	.450	LIVESTOCK & HUNTING	0	0.00	1	1000	490	.48	.49	.01+	
1.500	1.060	ARAB PAPER IND. TRD.	8.4	8.42	6	7048	8648	1.23	1.23	-	
2.700	1.230	NATIONAL ESTATE IND.	9	0.00	1	250	318	1.31	1.27	.04-	
1.210	.680	NATIONAL TRD.	9	8.96	4	3500	2345	.67	.67	-	
2.200	1.080	SPERMED. PETROL. CHEM.	0	0.00	1	500	159	1.18	1.18	.02+	
3.600	2.540	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	69.7	0.00	4	6000	1560	2.70	2.60	.05-	
4.850	2.450	WELT. CARL WILK. INC.	18.0	0.00	2	2000	6880	2.90	2.95	.06+	
1.600	.830	JOR. WILSON-CHEM	0	0.00	1	1000	850	.85	.78	.03-	
2.160	1.050	ARAB PHARM. INDUS.	28.6	0.00	7	1850	2739	1.47	1.53	.06+	
1.820	1.050	KUWAIT INVEST.	30.3	4.29	4	1800	2420	1.33	1.40	.07+	
1.380	1.780	JOR. ALUMIN. IND.	7.2	0.24	1	1000	14780	5.95	5.90	.05-	
2.100	1.140	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	56.8	0.00	12	7200	10000	1.39	1.40	.03+	
1.750	.990	JOR. NEW CARBON CO.	27.2	0.00	10	3750	3727	.99	1.00	.01+	
1.450	1.460	NEW ZEALAND BEER	0	0.00	1	100	100	1.00	1.00	-	
1.920	1.040	INTL. TOBACCO	27.3	0.00	14	4450	8093	1.14	1.16	.02+	
2.120	1.130	UNION CH. & VEG.	29.3	0.00	2	200	217	1.18	1.19	.01+	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 106.37 SCOR: -0.09 143 64004 210895											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 149.08 SCOR: +0.13 296 153851 515929											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 20/08/1996											
				</							

DAILY BUSINESS NEWS
A review of news from the Arabic press

**Expert urges pharmaceutical industries
in Jordan to merge**

**** MERGERS AMONG** Jordanian pharmaceutical industries would reflect positively on the economy and on the companies themselves in facing the challenges that would arise from joining the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and implementing the intellectual property right, a pharmaceutical expert has said.

According to Ibrahim Jalal, a senior staff member at Al Hikma Pharmaceuticals Company, mergers would combine the efforts of the companies in expanding sales, opening new markets and consolidating research and development operations to produce medicines that can strongly compete in outside markets.

He indicated that pharmaceutical industries in Jordan have a combined nominal capital of \$70 million but the actual investments reach \$400 million.

Dr. Jalal said that the pharmaceutical industry will be negatively affected during the coming ten years when Jordan joins the WTO as "we will be obliged to apply the patent rights law which specifies that protection is on the final product and not on the production process." This will result in relying on very

limited types of medicines, he added.

Furthermore, Dr. Jalal explained, outside markets will be shrinking and Jordanian pharmaceutical companies will have to compete with international firms and, consequently, be pressured in the area of pricing. Even prices of Jordanian medicines will rise when the law is applied.

To face this challenges, Jordanian pharmaceutical companies should modify their strategies in terms of research and development, marketing and opening new markets in addition to raising the specifications to be able to export to Europe and the United States, Dr. Jalal pointed out adding that the process in itself is long and tedious.

According to the expert, Jordan pharmaceutical exports amount to approximately \$120 million. He put the size of the Jordanian market at \$80 million and noted that local medicines account for 30 per cent of the market. At present there are 12 pharmaceutical industries in the Kingdom but eight of them are still under establishment (Aswqi).

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates					Prices as of 2006/06/19 12:22				
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar		1.4875	0.6460	1.2055	106.25	1.3734	1617.26	1.6685	5.0795
DE Mark	0.8723	-	0.4335	0.8101	72.75	0.9224	110.69	1.1219	3.4141
GB Sterling	1.5480	1.5480	-	1.8662	167.58	1.2800	2350.46	2.5851	7.8683
CH Franc	0.8295	123.29	0.5348	-	89.78	1.1382	1258.46	38.30	4.2123
JP Yen	0.0092	1.3729	0.5959	1.1126	-	1.2675	14.01	154.04	4.8916
CA Dollar	0.7281	1.0881	0.4699	0.8798	1.27	-	1104.85	1.2158	3.7152
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9790	0.4247	0.9733	1404.30	0.9038	-	1.08	3.3457
NL Guilder	0.5993	69.09	0.3854	72.22	54.82	0.8223	906.82	-	3.0440
FR Franc	0.1989	0.2925	0.1269	23.7033	21.27	0.2700	32.82	32.8200	-

Energy			Mid-East Currencies					
Oils	Last	Previous	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	
Brent	21.45	22.15	SA Riyal	0.2686	0.3969	0.17227	0.32171	28.8909
W.Texas	22.85	23.05	AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4053	0.17592	0.32852	29.92
Bony	21.85	22.15	KW Dinār	3.3406	4.97265	2.15843	4.03053	361.205
Dubai	18.70	18.75	BH Dinar	0.3773	0.54789	1.7138	3.2	287.439
UL Gas	209.00	209.00	CY Pound	1.2173	1.2173	1.35959	2.6054	233.593

Metal Prices			Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Metal	Bid	Offer	Period	-1 -	-3 -	-6 -	-91 -	-1 -
			Cncy	Month	Months	Months	Months	Year
Gold (oz's)	387.3	387.8	USD	5.20	5.36	5.56	5.59	5.73
Silver (oz's)	5.21	5.23	GBP	5.65	5.68	5.78	5.63	5.76
Platinum (oz's)	396.8	400.8	JPY	0.18	0.50	0.56	0.50	0.78
AL (3 Months)	1460	1490	DEM	3.21	3.21	3.21	3.12	3.12
CU (3 Months)	1931	1932	FRF	3.68	3.68	4.00	4.01	4.05
ZNC (3 Months)	1030	1033	CHF	2.25	2.28	2.30	2.25	2.40
Lead (3 Months)	823	825						
NIC (3 Months)	717	720						

Main Equity Indices		11L	0.97	0.75	0.53	0.26	0.00
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Clk
New York	DOW JONES	5708.68	9.24	0.16	5709.42	5692.78	5699.44
New York	S&P 500	666.23	-0.35	-0.05	666.68	665.74	666.58
London	FT-SE 100	3863.2	19.5	0.5	3864.8	3866.7	3863.7
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	21127.01	20.6	0.1	21163.2	20977.4	21108.4
Paris	CAC 40	2019.26	33.5	1.66	2020.57	1992.98	1986.21
Frankfurt	DAX	2580.26	-2.05	-0.1	2585.4	2558.89	2562.78

Energy			* JOD Cross Rates		
Commodity	Last	Delivery	Currency	Buy	Sell
Coffee (c/lbs)	120.83	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1459	Spot	GB Sterling	1.082	1.0975
Sugar (\$/ton)	374.8	Spot	DE Mark	0.4752	0.4773
Wheat (\$/ton)	183	Spot	CH Franc	0.5859	0.5886
Soya (c/lbs)	23.48	Spot	FR Franc	0.139	0.1397
Tea (g/kg)	112	Spot	JP Yen	0.6553	0.6586
Barley (\$/bsh)	3.48	Spot	NL Guilder	0.4237	0.4258
Jute (\$/ton)	420	Spot	IT Lira	0.4665	0.4688

JORDAN MARKETPLACE



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Sports



WORLD RECORD: Great Britain's David Holding (right) reacts as he crosses the finish line first in world record time, in the men's 100 metre T-53 race just ahead of Hakan Eriksson of Sweden (left) who took the silver at the Paralympics in Atlanta Monday. Holding, who captured the gold medal, finished the race in a time of 14.60 (Reuters photo)

Ajax look frail on eve of title defence

AMSTERDAM (R) — On the eve of the new Dutch soccer season, Ajax Amsterdam, European champions in 1995 and runners-up in 1996, are looking out of sorts.

In their last five pre-season games the Dutch champions have conceded 16 goals without themselves finding the net once.

Racked by injury and bedeviled by waning confidence, the world club champions look a pale shadow of the side that in recent years has rivalled blackbeard the pirate in capturing silverware.

The latest setback, Sunday's 3-0 defeat by a strong, fluent PSV Eindhoven in the Johan Cruyff Shield, the traditional season curtain-raiser, exposed alarming deficiencies in an Ajax machine that is used to sweeping all before it.

Coming hard on the heels of drubbings by AC Milan, Juventus and Spain's Deportivo La Coruna, as well as defeat against Ruud Gullit's Chelsea, the extent of PSV's superiority in all departments will worry Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal.

PSV, European champions in 1988 and now led by

former Dutch coach Dick Advocaat, have fired a serious warning at Ajax — it was their first win in Amsterdam for almost four years — and they look a good bet to usurp the Dutch crown.

But it would be unwise to write off Ajax, bidding for their fourth consecutive Dutch title and 27th in total, before the season kicks off in earnest.

Van Gaal sees no reason to panic, preferring to blame a lengthy list of players injured or recovering, including internationalists Marc Overmars, Patrick Kluivert, Winston Bogarde and Peter Hoekstra.

Defections, not helped by the Bosman ruling which made stars like Edgar Davids and Michael Reiziger give-away bargains for AC Milan, have also forced Van Gaal to chop, change and improve his line-up.

"I have to protect the players from themselves. Many of them just aren't yet fit enough for big games. Only the Boer brothers (Frank and Ronald) and (Edwin) Van Der Saar are really fit."

"I can't really change anything. Some players

need time to get into a rhythm. We usually use the pre-season to get the team to build up a head of steam, but we'll have to make the most of the next games just to limit the damage," Van Gaal said.

Dutch media have also speculated that Ajax's move to a new home, the towering multi-billion dollar Arena, has eroded the club's previous air of invincibility at the cramped De Meer Stadium.

"The recent defeats hurt, they have damaged our confidence and will have given other opponents heart," Van Gaal said. "Other teams will have been watching and will come here with more confidence. At the Meer we built up a fearsome reputation which we don't yet have at the Arena. We're going to have to work on that."

Van Gaal insists he has bought wisely over the summer, replacing Davids and Reiziger, as well as the Nigerian pair Finidi George and Nwankwo Kanu.

But Richard Witschge, who caught the eye during the European Champi-

onships, is no Davids. His languid style, deft touch and superb passing will help when Ajax go forward. But Davids' strength was as ball-winner when the team were under pressure.

Mariano Juan, the young Argentine who cannot yet communicate with his team mates, is no replacement for Bogarde, another who emerged from Dutch disappointment at Euro 96 with his reputation enhanced, while Kluivert's slow recuperation may force Van Gaal to shop around for a stand-in goalscorer.

Babangida, signed from Roda to replace his fellow countryman Finidi, has looked sluggish, while both Peter Hoekstra and Finn Jari Litmanen are struggling to find form and confidence.

PSV's emergence from a summer of canny buying as serious title contenders has whetted the appetite of Dutch soccer fans and may spell an end to Ajax's recent hegemony.

The champions begin the defence of their title against Nac of Breda Wednesday.

2 goals by Liverpool's Steve McManaman sinks Arsenal

LONDON (Agencies) — Two second half goals from Liverpool's Steve McManaman handed troubled Arsenal a 2-0 beating in an English Premier League match Monday.

Liverpool endured a frustrating first hour as Arsenal defended solidly but in the 68th minute Steve Bould's attempt to block McManaman's weak left-footer only succeeded in leaving goalkeeper David Seaman flat-footed.

McManaman struck again six minutes later, back-heeling to John Barnes. The shot was saved by Seaman but McManaman was on hand to stab home the rebound.

Arsenal caretaker manager Stewart Houston tried to alter the complexion of the game by sending on Ian Wright for John Hartson, but there was no way back for the Londoners for all the skill displayed by Dennis Bergkamp.

It could have been worse as Liverpool broke free from their shackles late on,

Robbie Fowler going extremely close.

Liverpool had drawn their opening game of the season at Middlesbrough Saturday 3-3 while Arsenal beat London neighbours West Ham 2-0.

After Monday's result bookmakers promoted Liverpool to 11-4 second favourites for the league title, ahead of Newcastle.

Latest betting: Manchester United 11-10, Liverpool 11-4, Newcastle 3-1, Chelsea 16-1, Everton 18-1, Arsenal 20-1.

McManaman said "The first half was very hard and we didn't get many opportunities as Arsenal defended very well. But the gaffer (manager) told us to keep going, and that's what we did."

Manager Roy Evans said: "It wasn't easy to play again so quickly after the Middlesbrough game Saturday but I was really pleased with our effort."

"The way we closed them down was fantastic, even when things weren't going

our way and, although I didn't think we would get the bounce of the ball, we stuck at it and got what we deserved."

Meanwhile, Frenchman Arsene Wenger confirmed Tuesday that he would soon be the new Arsenal manager.

But Wenger, currently in charge of Japanese side Grampus Eight, said he did not know when he would be able to start work.

"The Grampus wants a little bit more time. They are mastering the announcement of my future. I think it will be in the next days but I have no precise day. We have to speak again," said Wenger.

"It will be very soon. This week, perhaps early next week," he added.

Arsenal is currently under the caretaker charge of Stewart Houston.

Arsenal will be keen to get the former Monaco boss, whose contract with Grampus Eight doesn't run out until November, on board as soon as possible.

Wenger, in the interview with BBC Radio Four's Today programme, played down claims that his first act on taking over the reins from Bruce Rioch would be to bid £4 million for compatriot David Ginola from premiership rivals Newcastle.

"He is a very good player for Newcastle, but the balance of the team is the most important thing."

"It is not only the quality of a player which matters, but whether he would fit in with the team."

Ginola is reportedly unsettled at St. James' Park and was linked with a move to Bobby Robson's Barcelona during the close season.

Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan could be willing to let him go in order to acquire funds to strengthen a defence which let in four goals to Manchester United in the Charity Shield and two in Saturday's opening-day premiership defeat by Everton.

IAAF considers change to drug ban rules

SYDNEY (R) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) may strip national bodies of their powers to punish drug cheats, a senior IAAF official said Tuesday.

IAAF General Secretary Istvan Gyulai said the sport's world ruling body would consider amending its rules to centralise the process of sentencing athletes who return positive dope tests.

Two athletes — Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco and Italian high jumper Antonella Bevilacqua — were allowed to compete at the Atlanta Olympics after failing drugs tests before the games.

"When we faced the Capobianco case in Atlanta we came to the conclusion our rules would probably have to be amended," Gyulai told a news conference in Sydney ahead of the World Junior Championships starting Wednesday.

Asked if this meant the IAAF assuming the right to suspend athletes, Gyulai said: "If necessary, yes."

Both Capobianco and Bevilacqua were freed to compete in Atlanta after lodging appeals with their respective national bodies, as allowed under current IAAF rules.

Capobianco tested positive for the steroid Stanozolol at a meeting in the Dutch town of Hengelo in

May but an Athletics Australia tribunal dismissed the charge, citing flaws in the testing process.

Bevilacqua was caught twice with the banned stimulant Ephedrine in her body in May. An Italian athletics panel decided she had taken the drug by mistake and did not impose the usual three-month ban.

The IAAF said in Atlanta last month they decided not to ban the two athletes from the Olympics because they said they feared being taken to court and sued.

Instead, the cases were referred to the International Olympic Committee's Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Gyulai described the

IAAF's case against Capobianco as watertight but added the federation would abide by the CAS's decision, which he said would be "final and binding."

Athletics Australia President David Prince said the CAS hearing was likely to be held in Monte Carlo next month.

Bevilacqua's case is due to go to an arbitration hearing and her Atlanta result may be cancelled if it goes against her.

She came fourth in the high jump in Atlanta. On her return to Italy she said she would not be competing again this year.



Palestine Securities Exchange Job Opportunities

The Palestine Securities Exchange (PSE) is seeking stock exchange professionals with the following qualifications:

1. MBA, MA, or BA in Finance or Accounting.
2. At least three years of experience in the securities industry or related areas.
3. Knowledge of capital market theories and practices and exposure to tradable securities.

Successful candidates will most likely have worked in a stock exchange, banks, large institutions, brokerage houses, consulting, or auditing and accounting firms.

Notes for candidates:

- CV's are to be sent to fax nos.: 972 9 375945 or 962 6 630451 or to one of the following addresses:

Palestine Securities Exchange
P.O.Box 128 Nablus - Palestine

Palestine Development & Investment Company
P.O.Box 6181 Amman 11118 - Jordan

- Candidates will be screened by a special committee and will be contacted for interviews. Remaining CV's will be kept for future consideration.
- Place of work: Palestine Securities Exchange in Nablus.
- CV's will be handled with the utmost confidentiality.
- Working conditions are attractive and salaries are determined according to qualifications and background



Palestine Securities Exchange Job Opportunities

The Palestine Securities Exchange (PSE) is seeking to fill the following vacancies in the Clearing, Settlement & Depository (CDS) Department:

Manager of the Clearing, Settlement & Depository Department.

Qualifications to include the following:

1. MBA, MA or BA in Financial Management, Accounting, Finance, or any related fields.
2. At least ten years of experience in Capital Market environment and/or in the Auditing and Accounting field and knowledge of the share registry & transfer functions.
3. Previous management experience of a computer operated environment.
4. Writing and verbal abilities in both English and Arabic.
5. Motivational and training development skills along with high organizational skills.
6. Ability to analyze, plan, tackle different problems, and to work under pressure.

CDS Assistant Manager or Section Head.

Qualifications to include the following:

1. BA in Financial Management, Accounting, Finance or any related Fields.
2. At least five years of relevant experience.
3. Knowledge of the maintenance of share registry and transfer books.
4. Previous exposure to a computer operated environment.
5. Writing and verbal abilities in both English and Arabic.
6. Commitment to team work is essential, along with the desire for learning and developing.
7. High organizational skills.
8. Ability to work under pressure.

CDS Technicians.

Qualifications to include the following:

1. BA in Financial Management, Accounting, Finance or related fields.
2. Two to five years of relevant experience.
3. Some knowledge of Share Book maintenance is preferable.
4. Previous exposure to a computer operated environment, along with keyboard skills.
5. Writing and verbal abilities in both English and Arabic.
6. Commitment to team work is essential, along with the desire for learning and developing.
7. Ability to work under pressure.

Notes for candidates:

- For more information please contact Miss Sameera Mubarak in Nablus, Palestine at telephone no. 972 - 9 - 375946 / 7
- CV's are to be sent to Faxno. 972 - 9 - 375945 or at the following address:

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Netanyahu sees no change in military balance with Syria

Syria reportedly tested Scud C; Israel reports Arrow's success

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu played down Syria's test-firing of a long-range Scud C missile on Tuesday, saying the region's military balance was unchanged.

Israel on Tuesday also successfully tested its Hetz anti-missile missile over the Mediterranean.

"There is no change in the strategic capacities of Syria. Damascus is trying to move from buying Scud B missiles to manufacturing missiles," Mr. Netanyahu told the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee.

"Of course, there is an attempt on the part of Syria to intimidate us, but we do not see any significant signs or fundamental changes in the situation," he said.

Moshe Keren, director of the state-run Israeli Military Industries which carried out the first Hetz-2 test under battlefield conditions, said initial indications showed the test was a success.

Israel's test firing of the Arrow missile was under battlefield conditions of a missile designed to shoot down incoming missiles, hitting the target, officials said. Israeli Military Industries officials said first indications showed the test was a success.

A target missile was fired from a boat and the Hetz-2, or Arrow, from Palmachim beach on the Mediterranean, south of Tel Aviv, four minutes later.

U.S. and Israeli officials in charge of the Arrow project were at the site. It was the first of four operational tests.

Sylvia Beit Halachmi, spokeswoman of Israeli Military Industries, said it was the third overall test of the Hetz-2. The firing was carried out at 3:16 p.m. (12:16 GMT), she said.

"First indications show that its performance was as planned. The sensors of the missile homed in on the target."

The warhead functioned and the target was hit," said Ms. Beit-Halachmi, without specifying if it was destroyed. "The results of the test are still being analysed," she told AFP.

If the development of Hetz-2, or the Arrow, proves successful, Israel will have an effective weapon against Chinese or North Korean-made long-range missiles not only in the arsenals of Syria but also of Iran and Egypt.

The test just came a day after Israel's Channel 2 television reported that Syria had several weeks ago test-fired a Scud C missile with a range of 600 kilometres capable of hitting almost anywhere in Israel.

On the peace process, the prime minister accused Syria of seeking an escalation in Lebanon.

"Our 'Lebanon-first' proposal is concrete and clear. The situation in Lebanon is in the process of deteriorating and that's why we promised to calm the situation," he said.

"But the Syrians are not interested and they want to carry out an indirect war through Hizbollah," the Iranian-backed guerrillas fighting to evict Israel from its "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Damascus has rejected Mr. Netanyahu's proposal for a settlement in Lebanon, where Syria has 35,000 troops, to revive the Syrian-Israeli track of the peace process stalled since February.

A Syrian government newspaper said meanwhile the Israeli government was prepared to launch an attack on Syria.

"An Israeli attack on Syria cannot be ruled out," said the daily Al Thawra, adding that the Israeli government is "ready for such an attack with only the date yet to be fixed."

The newspaper added that Syria was "prepared for all possibilities imposed

on it by Israel's challenges."

It was the most pointed warning by the Syrian press of armed conflict with Israel since Mr. Netanyahu came to power in June.

Al Thawra accused the right-wing Israeli leader of "stirring up the waters of aggression and escalation as if he were truly preparing an attack."

An Israeli expert warned Sunday that Israel's determination to hold onto the Golan Heights had heightened the chances of war with Syria.

Zeev Maoz, director of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, told the Haaretz newspaper: "If the government really intends to keep the Golan, it must not hide the fact that it is taking the risk of sparking a new war which is likely to cause mostly civilian victims."

Al Thawra newspaper said Mr. Maoz's worst-case scenario "cannot be ruled out."

It called on the international community to "rein in Mr. Netanyahu's policies before he launches new ventures which will only bring destruction and desolation."

Syria's army chief-of-staff, General Hikmat Shehadi, said on July 30 that the "military option" was one of his country's options in its conflict with Israel.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency, quoting unnamed military sources, said last month that North Korea has shipped Scud-C missiles to Syria, Iraq, Iran and Libya since 1991.

The news agency said North Korea also had helped build missile assembly facilities in Syria, Libya and Iran.

Channel Two television reported that a Scud-C can carry a 500 kilogrammes warhead. It said Syria had 20 Scud-C launchers, hundreds of missiles and the capability to manufacture the weapons.



KING IN RAMTHA: His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday accepts the gift of a sword during a visit he paid to Ramtha in the north (see page one) (photo by Yousef Allan)

No progress without closure of Palestinian offices, Israel says

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Tuesday that progress in the peace process depends on the Palestinians closing Palestinian offices in Jerusalem.

"There will be no progress in negotiations with the Palestinians, including on Hebron, so long as they fail to close their offices in Jerusalem," he told the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee.

Mr. Netanyahu also rejected criticism of his handling of the peace process from former Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres, accusing his predecessor of wanting "to put a spanner in the works" and of acting irresponsibly.

Foreign Minister David Levy is to travel to Europe in a bid to convince European Union (EU) ministers

to keep away from Orient House.

Israeli Radio said. It said Mr. Levy's mission would take place in September and that the minister would also meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, but it did not give an itinerary.

The foreign ministry was unavailable to give dates or other details.

Israel has informed the EU that it will refuse a planned visit by top EU ministers if they do not ditch plans to visit Orient House, the radio said earlier this week.

The EU troika of the foreign ministers of Italy, Ireland and the Netherlands — the current, past and future presidents of the union — is scheduled to visit Israel and the Palestinian self-ruled territories next month.

delayed redeployment from Hebron, the last West Bank town still under Israeli control.

"The government will resume serious debate on the Hebron redeployment, while keeping a close watch on whether the other side respects the accords which have been reached," said the prime minister.

The new right-wing government has made halting Palestinian political activity in Jerusalem one of its top priorities.

Mr. Netanyahu also rejected criticism of his handling of the peace process from former Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres, accusing his predecessor of wanting "to put a spanner in the works" and of acting irresponsibly.

Foreign Minister David Levy is to travel to Europe in a bid to convince European Union (EU) ministers

Israel goes on offensive in southern Lebanon

TYRE (AFP) — Israeli forces shelled a South Lebanon village outside the occupied "security zone" on Tuesday after warning the Lebanese people they would pay the price for guerrilla attacks.

The army and its proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia fired around 30 shells at Zibqine village, two kilometres outside the occupied zone, a day after Hizbollah guerrillas killed an SLA officer in a bomb attack. Three houses were badly damaged, a Lebanese police officer said, without giving details of casualties.

"A family of four narrowly escaped death when a shell destroyed three rooms in their home but left the bedroom where they were sleeping intact," he added.

The bombardment is in violation of an April ceasefire accord for South Lebanon under which Israel and Hizbollah pledged not to attack civilian targets. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned during a tour of the Israel-Lebanon border on Monday that the Lebanese people would suffer in the event of any new military confrontation with Israel.

"If the situation in Lebanon gets worse, it will be very hard for the Lebanese because Israel will not allow any harm to be done to its soldiers or civilians," Mr. Netanyahu said.

A Hizbollah spokesman said Tuesday that the shelling "was not the first violation of the ceasefire accord by Israel," charging that Lebanese civilians had been wounded in the recent shelling of another village north of the buffer zone.

Meanwhile, an Israeli soldier was killed and another

was wounded in the occupied zone when two nervous patrols mistook each other for anti-Israeli guerrillas, security sources said.

The two Israeli units were patrolling the northern sector of the buffer zone in South Lebanon at dawn Tuesday when the 15-minute shootout happened, the sources said.

The army is on the alert for attacks by Hizbollah guerrillas after a military report predicted there would be a rise in suicide attacks in the "security zone" this month to coincide with Lebanese elections.

Armed incidents have already increased over the past days, said the report, cited by Haaretz newspaper on Monday.

Hizbollah guerrillas killed an SLA officer on Monday by blowing up his car as it travelled between Jezzine and Dahr Al Ramlah inside the "security zone."

Mr. Netanyahu has ordered the Israeli army to be more aggressive in combating Hizbollah guerrillas, who spearhead attacks in the buffer zone. The new instructions call for stepping up raids, including pre-emptive strikes against anti-Israeli fighters north of the buffer zone, officials said last week.

A five-nation committee has been set up to monitor an April 26 ceasefire accord in South Lebanon which put an end to Israel's 17-day offensive against Hizbollah.

The committee, which groups Israel, Syria, the United States, Lebanon and France, met last week at the request of Israel which accused Hizbollah of killing a civilian in the occupied zone.

Hebron could destroy coalition, warns Eitan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling coalition would be in danger of collapse if he ordered a redeployment from the West Bank town of Hebron, Agriculture Minister Raphael Eytan warned Tuesday.

"The government coalition will fall if Mr. Netanyahu does not respect the accords we have reached," said the leader of the far-right Tsomet Party, referring to pie-cake deals with the Likud chief.

"Those who think they can make me deviate from my path must know that they are letting themselves in for problems," he told the newspaper Haaretz.

Mr. Eytan said the accord between the ousted Labour government and the Palestinians for the Israeli army to withdraw from 80 per cent of Hebron would spell "catastrophe" for the town's Jewish settlers.

Some 450 militant settlers live in the heart of Hebron among 120,000 Palestinians.

Under the 1995 autonomy accord, Israel agreed to pull out from four-fifths of the town before the end of March, leaving behind a small force to guard Jewish settlers and holy sites.

But the former government postponed the redeployment after a string of militant suicide bombings in Israel, and Mr. Peres' right-wing successor Netanyahu has yet to specify his plans.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has drawn up a redeployment plan preserving the army's right to patrol in areas turned over to the Palestinians, a change to the auton-

omy accord which Palestinian officials reject.

However, senior ministers were divided over Mr. Mordechai's proposal when they met to discuss it on Sunday.

Mr. Eitan also said Tuesday that it might be better for the Jewish state if the peace process "exploded."

"The government will go at the slowest possible pace," he said. "It will scrutinise every apostrophe in the agreement before moving forward. The prime minister sees these things correctly when he's not hurrying."

Asked if he would be pleased if the peace process "exploded," Mr. Eitan said: "If it is good for the national interest that everything explodes, let it explode."

"In my opinion there is no peace process at all," he said. "The Arabs don't want peace. What the previous government did was to dash for peace without understanding that the question in our region is to be annihilated or to take a stand."

The former general sits on Mr. Netanyahu's "security council" of senior ministers and staunchly opposes the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accords.

"These agreements are a severe blow to the national interest. I don't know how we'll get out of this," he said.

Before retiring from the army in 1983, Mr. Eitan told a parliament committee: "When we have settled the land, all the Arabs will be able to do about it will be to scurry around like drugged cockroaches in a bottle."

Ex-Iranian leader claims assassination conspiracy

PARIS (AFP) — Former Iranian President Abdolhasan Bani Sadr claimed Tuesday that he was plotting to kill him in Berlin this week when he goes there to stand witness in a murder trial of four opposition Kurds.

He vowed, however, that he is determined to give testimony Thursday and Friday in the trial of an Iranian and four Lebanese accused of killing four Iranian Kurds in 1992.

"I have received information from Iran indicating that two hit-squads, one coming from Sweden and the other from a European country, have gone to Berlin to prepare to assassinate me," he told AFP.

"I have decided to go to Berlin. I have given all the information on preparations for my assassination to French and German police," he said, adding that German police were to protect him.

His informants had told him that a three-person hit-team of unknown nationality had joined a group of five Iranians in Berlin, he said.

The 63-year-old politician has lived in exile in France since being ousted by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1981 after holding office for less than 18 months, from January 1980.

"I recently provided the German authorities a long detailed report on the organisation of the terrorist state in Iran," adding that the order to kill him came from President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

He also said he had given authorities the name of one of the accomplices in the Berlin 1992 attack, not identified until now, who is said to have shot the Kurds.

Those killed included the head of the democratic party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) Sadeq Charafkandi. They were shot by automatic gunfire as they sat in a Berlin restaurant, the Mykonos, in September 1992.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Omar Rifai holds talks with Levy

TEL AVIV (Petra) — Jordanian Ambassador to Israel Omar Rifai Tuesday met with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and discussed with him bilateral relations and efforts to develop economic cooperation. Mr. Rifai also discussed with Mr. Levy the issue of Jordanian prisoners in Israeli jails and the need to release them as soon as possible. The two sides stressed the importance of resuming the peace process to reach tangible progress on the Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian tracks.

Arab panel discusses nuclear danger

CAIRO (AFP) — Experts from eight Arab countries met here Tuesday to evaluate the "nuclear danger" posed by Israel over its refusal to adhere to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty (NPT). Arab League officials said. "The meeting is to evaluate Israel's nuclear strength which is a threat to Arab security," one official said, adding it was the first meeting of the special watchdog group since it was set up by the Arab League in March. It groups experts from Egypt, Syria, Libya, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, who will prepare a report to submit to the Arab League at its next ministerial meeting in September. Officials from the Arab League's military department as well as the head of the Arab Atomic Energy Agency (AAEA).

Baghdad wants dialogue with Kurds

BAGHDAD (AFP) — President Saddam Hussein's government on Tuesday accused Kurdish factions in northern Iraq of "serving the interests of foreign countries" but offered to resume its dialogue with them. The official Al-Qadissi newspaper described the factions "as hired groups which took orders from foreign countries and turned themselves into a tool to achieve aims contrary to Iraq's interests." But the newspaper also issued an offer to resume dialogue with the Kurds who have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the 1991 Gulf war. The daily said the Iraqi leadership "has an open mind about any realistic and justified demand or about any humanitarian case" and "will not hesitate to accept any new demand which is sufficiently justified."

Lebanese court backs death for bomber

BEIRUT (AFP) — A Lebanese court on Tuesday confirmed the death sentence imposed on a Lebanese man convicted of a 1994 bombing against the Iranian-backed Hizbollah and of collaboration with Israel. The 10-judge amnesty committee, which routinely reviews death sentences passed by lower courts, will now send the decision to President Elias Hrawi for either approval or amnesty. A military court sentenced Ahmad Al-Hallak to death on June 19 for the bombing on December 21, 1994, of a Hizbollah office in Beirut's southern suburbs that killed four. Among the victims was Fuad Mughniye, brother of Imad Mughniye, a Hizbollah official believed to have ordered most of the abductions of foreigners in Lebanon in the 1980s. After the bombing, Hallak fled to the Israeli-occupied border zone in southern Lebanon, but he was snatched and brought to court by Lebanese authorities earlier this year.

Syrian premier ends Iran visit

TEHRAN (AFP) — Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al-Zoubi wound up a three-day official visit to Iran on Tuesday after signing an economic cooperation accord, Iran's state radio said. The agreement calls for the transfer of Iranian technical expertise in the steel industry, railways, cement factories and wheat silos, it said. The two countries will also look into increasing trade, reducing customs tariffs and setting up economic joint ventures.

Japanese foreign minister launches Mideast visit

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda left for a 10-day visit to Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Israel Tuesday to promote Japan's role in revitalising the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Ikeda left here for Egypt, where he was scheduled to meet President Hosni Mubarak.

Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri and Foreign Minister Amr Musa, foreign ministry officials said. In Syria, Mr. Ikeda will meet with President Hafez Al-Assad, Foreign Minister Farouk Al-Sharrah and other leaders.

In Jordan, he will hold talks

with either King Hussein or Crown Prince Hassan, as well as Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

After proceeding to Israel on August 25, Mr. Ikeda will meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy.

Mr. Ikeda will also meet with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Gaza on August 25 to extend an official invitation for him to visit Japan in September, which would be the Palestinian leader's first visit to Tokyo since taking office.

During Mr. Arafat's visit,

Japan hopes to give added impetus to the Middle East peace plan by offering a new economic assistance scheme, a foreign ministry source said.

Japan put up \$200 million to assist Palestinian autonomy through 1995 and promised an additional \$200 million for the next two years.

For the Palestinian council elections in January, Japan provided \$800,000 and sent 58 observers.

Mr. Ikeda will return home on August 29 after making a brief stop in Hong Kong for talks with acting Hong Kong Govern-

nor Anson Chan, who is chief secretary of the British colony.

It will be the first visit to Hong Kong by a Japanese foreign minister in seven years.

During his Middle East tour, Mr. Ikeda will indicate Japan's interest in the November economic summit on the Middle East and North Africa, to be held in Cairo, which Tokyo views as an important element of the peace process.

"With this visit we would like to show our ability to play a political role," a Japanese diplomat said of Mr. Ikeda's tour.



Reagan to sell California ranch

LOS ANGELES (R) — Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy have reluctantly listed their southern California ranch — known during his presidency as the western White House — for sale, an aide said. "Sadly, since president Reagan's illness, it hasn't been used," Reagan's spokeswoman, Joanne Drake, said in a brief statement. Reagan announced in 1994 that he was suffering from Alzheimer's disease, and he and his wife have lived solely in their Los Angeles mansion since then.

Clinton celebrates birthday with pork and beans

JACKSON, Tenn. (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore's wife tipper celebrated their respective birthdays Monday with a southern barbecue featuring pork and beans. At Madison's Restaurant, Mr. Clinton and his wife, Hillary, and the Gores tucked into what was described as a West Tennessee barbecue of pork, baked beans, coleslaw, new charbroiled potatoes, potato salad and grilled chicken. Mr. Clinton turned 50 Monday and Tipper turned 48. Officials said Tipper, a one-time newspaper photographer, gave the president a leather-bound copy of her new book called Picture This: A Visual Diary. The Clintons gave her a helmet and pads for rollerblading. Tipper got a new camera lens from her husband.

Glasgow bans alcohol in the streets

GLASGOW, Scotland (R) — Glasgow has banned the consumption of alcohol in the parks and streets of a city long renowned as the hardest drinking in Britain. But a few of the most determined drinkers were not to be put off by the new by-law, which means they could be fined up to £500 (£750) for taking their tipple in the open air. Police said "a handful of people" had been stopped under the law and their beverages confiscated. To generations of Britons, Glasgow and alcohol are inseparable, the subject of endless jokes and songs. But the civic council, in addition to burnishing the city's image, wants to improve security.

Boy rescued by gorilla said recovering

CHICAGO (R) — The Three-year-old boy rescued by a protective female gorilla when he tumbled into her zoo habitat was recovering and could be released from the hospital this week, his doctor said. The boy, whose name has not been released, suffered bruises and abrasions from the nearly 20-foot fall onto the concrete enclosure at Brookfield Zoo's Tropic World Africa Exhibit. He was listed in fair condition, upgraded from critical when he was first brought in.

Rare snowfalls in Queensland

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's tropical state of Queensland experienced a rare light dusting of snow Monday as a cold snap swept the country's eastern states, closing highways and raising fears of livestock losses. The freezing conditions reached as far north as Stanthorpe, 200 kilometres southwest of Brisbane, the state capital of Queensland, a Bureau of Meteorology spokesman said. "There is a serious risk of sheep or lamb losses," the bureau spokesman said.

Zeroual wants

ALGERIA (R) — President Abdelaziz Bouteflike said Tuesday that he would not resign his government despite strong criticism of the handling of bread prices.

Dr. Shneika, who deputy and a member of the Democratic Party (D) said he was committed to the decisions of the government although he is in the need to rectify position and to promote people that it would be in cooperation with the Lower House of

government said Shneika was entitled to his opinion as a member of the government.

"but when a decision is taken through a vote, the ministers are collectively responsible for it."

The spokesman did not wish to be identified by name, spoke before minister of information Marwan Mawashir, said.

"despite the political city inside the government, the responsibility is on the prime minister and his decisions."

Dr. Shneika said he shared his party's view that bread prices should be increased rather than in a single as happened; but the member of the govern-

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